

VALLEY FARMER.



A Monthly Journal of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and Domestic Economy, Adapted
To the Wants of the People of the Mississippi Valley.

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The Valley Farmer.

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TERMS.

THE VALLEY FARMER is published on the first of each month, each number containing 48 large octavo pages (including 8 pages devoted to advertisements of matters of interest to farmers,) and is offered at the following rates:—

Single copy, one year, - - - - - \$1 00
Four copies, \$3; seven copies, \$5; Fifteen copies, \$10.

Payments, in all cases, must be made in advance. Remittances in gold coins, current bank notes, or postage stamps, may be made by mail at our risk.

AGENTS.—Postmasters and Merchants throughout the country are authorized to act as Agents, and every friend of the enterprise is respectfully requested to aid in extending its circulation.

ADVERTISING.—Advertisements are inserted in the ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT of the Valley Farmer at the following rates:—One insertion of 12 lines, \$1; each additional insertion, 50 cents; 12 lines one year \$6; each additional 12 lines one year, \$4; one page, one insertion, \$7, each additional insertion, \$5; one page, yearly, \$50; ads of six lines or less, one year, \$4.

☞ THE PAPER upon which this number of the VALLEY FARMER is printed is not as good as we could desire or as we intend to use; but the cessation of navigation by the cold weather, has prevented us from getting on our stock from Ohio, and this is the best we could get in St. Louis.

THE VALLEY FARMER IN GERMAN.—We have received a good many letters making

inquiries if the Valley Farmer is printed in German. To all such, and to all others who desire to see it thus printed we would say that we have not yet commenced its publication in that language for the reason that we have not received assurances of patronage sufficient to warrant it. We have not abandoned the idea, but have deferred it for a while, until we learn further what prospect there is for a support being obtained for it.

ADDITIONS TO CLUBS.—As some of our kind friends do not seem to understand our regulations about additions to clubs, we will state that when a club is formed and the names sent on, any additional names may be forwarded at the same rates, or if the names thus added will make the entire club large enough to entitle it to the advantages of a still further reduction, they will be sent at those rates. Thus, three additional names to a club of four will make it seven, and two dollars should be sent with the additional names; and eight subscribers to a club of seven, will make a club of fifteen; and five dollars should be sent with the additional names. Payments for clubs must be strictly in advance, or else the full amount of \$1 for each subscriber will be required.

THANKS.—We wish we had room to publish all the encouraging letters we have received during the last month from friends who have sent in the names of subscribers. We can assure them all that we shall remember their kind words of encouragement and approval:

Agricultural Societies.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED.

We desire to call attention to a notice published among our advertisements from the officers of the Mo. State Agricultural Society to the effect that the members of the Society are requested to meet with several gentlemen named at Boonville on the first of May next, to prepare a list of premiums to be awarded at the Fair in October; and also requesting persons interested to send on their views in writing for the consideration of the management. In compliance with this request, and also in fulfillment of divers promises made by us during the past season, we proceed to give our views in regard to some reforms needed in the management of State and County Agricultural Societies.

In the first place greater encouragement should be given to mechanics, particularly makers of agricultural implements. At our State Fair we noticed more implements of first importance to the farmers of the State for which no premiums were offered than there were of those included in the list of premiums. The premiums offered are also generally too small, considering the cost of the articles, the expense of bringing them to the exhibition, and the magnitude of the premiums offered for other things. We do not consider ten dollars much of a premium for a threshing machine or horse-power worth two or three hundred dollars, when the same amount is paid for a cow or colt worth forty or fifty.

A more perfect classification of such articles is also needed. There should also be a distinction made between the endless-chain horse power and the sweep power: between the separating threshing machine and the cleaner; between the breaking plow and the stubble or old land plow; between implements, such as corn shellers, feed cutters, corn crushers, &c., to be worked by hand and those worked by horse or steam power. While a distinction should be made between implements manufactured in the State or County and those made out of it, both should be encouraged. There are

many articles of foreign manufacture which should receive premiums, because their introduction is of great importance to the community, but premiums should never be given to them in competition with home manufactures.

Another very essential matter is a provision for testing the different implements. No committee can judge understandingly of the merits of any implement unless he sees it tried. We would recommend that a trial of reapers, mowers, and horse powers, threshing machines, and other agricultural implements be had at a suitable time and place for testing such articles by actual service and that it be open to all machines whether made in the State or not.

We find in the *Country Gentleman* an excellent article—extremely well timed, and we quote it in this connection:

"The object of the premiums offered by Agricultural Societies generally, is twofold; first, to encourage the best kinds of farming, by rewards for the best crops, best implements, and the finest animals; and secondly to render the fairs so attractive by an assemblage of rare and interesting objects, that a large multitude may be induced to attend and pay the accustomed fee of admittance, to meet the expenses necessarily incurred. The real and sole object of an agricultural fair should be to impart valuable information to the whole community—it should be a school of instruction in farming generally. What portion of the visitors attend for this object, and what portion merely to gratify a love of novelty and sight-sight, we leave for our readers to decide. Certain it is that the managers of fairs have found it necessary to their pecuniary support, to make objects of mere show an essential portion of their exhibition—in some instances they have perhaps become too much for show, even at the expense of what must always form a substantial basis for support, namely, lasting utility. So long however as the life-blood of agricultural societies consists in the fees paid by the multitude, we cannot object to the attraction created by the

expected presence of President and Governors, Politicians and Generals, for these will commonly bring together more of the farming community, than the finest animals, implements, and products in the world; and this will always be the case so long as farmers prefer political papers to agricultural journals. Our western friends have found another element of attraction, by displaying the feats of horsemanship through the stimulus of prizes, and so great has been the eagerness to see these brilliant exploits of female equestrians, that twenty thousand persons were drawn together at a single country fair in Ohio the past autumn.

"Such modes of attraction as we have mentioned, we believe may be admitted even by so grave and dignified an association as an AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY; but further than these we would not go, nor recommend the frivolity and idle amusements which have in a very few instances been connected with fairs, turning night into day, and setting a very bad example to farmers or steady habits,—who find no little trouble, in this flashy age, in retaining the affections of their sons and daughters for the quiet and real pleasures of home, instead of the gilded follies and hollow enjoyments commonly known under the name of "pleasure." Every thing connected with rural advancement, should contribute to a healthy and not to a vitiated taste, and when associations or periodicals cease to exercise such a salutary influence, it may be strongly questioned whether their best act would not be to cease to exist.

"But enough of this. The principal object of our present remarks is to suggest a change in relation to the common mode of offering premiums. Agricultural societies, from their earliest existence, have traveled on nearly in one unvarying track. Premiums,—to stimulate the exhibition of rare objects that the people may be induced to come and see them. The premium lists of all are essentially the same. The best horses, the best cattle, the best sheep, and the best swine; the most promising looking

plow, wheat-drill, threshing machines, and reaper; the largest collection of showy fruit, and the most laboriously wrought bed-quilt and sewed flower-work. Now, some of these objects are most excellent; the introduction of fine animals, for example, to the myriads of farmers who would never have seen them but at such places, nor known of their existence, has conferred a benefit on the whole country that can be estimated only by millions. A similar influence has been exerted by the introduction of improved implements, and by other improvements.

"A great field lies nearly unexplored, and farmers are thirsting for information, which these societies have as yet failed to furnish. We allude more particularly to systematic knowledge relative to cultivation, feeding &c., which is only to be learned by experiment, carefully, scientifically and rationally conducted. The organization and support of agricultural societies require that a large portion of the present system of premiums be retained; but experiments, such as we have mentioned, have been almost wholly overlooked. A few premiums have been offered for such experiments, but they have brought still fewer results. Premiums are an insufficient stimulus for their trial. Most men have taken it for granted, without ever questioning the opinion, that premiums must be the great main-spring of all associated action. They will not answer for well conducted farm experiments, for there are very few that know how to perform them properly, that will do so with a mere chance of being paid for their services. Societies, if they expect to be useful, must mark out a series of experiments, and there are a few competent persons who would undertake them, from the interest they feel, at even less than the cost of carrying them out accurately in practice, when a risk would be no inducement. We do not see why agricultural societies should not aim to be useful in this way, as well as by the more indirect benefits of public shows.

"It is scarcely necessary for us to men-

tion instances; yet a few may seem to make our meaning plainer. The societies of this state have paid many thousand dollars for the finest looking cattle and horses. One twentieth part of the fifty thousand dollars thus paid, would, if judiciously expended, have shown our farmers the comparative advantages of cut and uncut fodder; of feeding regularly and irregularly; of shelter and exposure; the nutritive value of hay and cornstalks, of wheat, oat, and rye straw, of cooked and uncooked food; the fattening properties of various grains, and of beets, turnips, rutabagas, parsnips and carrots; and would have shown which of the various breeds of cattle would furnish a hundred pounds of beef with the smallest amount of food; which of the various competing kinds of swine would fill a pork barrel the cheapest. Now, we candidly ask, Would not a knowledge of all these facts be quite as useful to the great community of farmers, as the mere sight of the handsomest animals at our State and county fairs? Will societies continue the same tread-mill track as formerly?

Again—thousands have been given for large crops; the knowledge of which has had a stimulating effect on other cultivation. But the manure which produced them may have cost a large sum, and may be still too scarce an article to treat a whole farm with. Experiments therefore, showing the most economical mode of composting, applying and intermixing manures with the soil would be of universal benefit. Indisputable facts, pointing out the best crop for green manure, and its value as compared with compost, and with other green crops, would be of the highest benefit. So also would a general system of experiments with various sorts of rotations, for determining the most valuable for the permanent benefit of the land, as well as for immediate profit. Again—premiums are offered year after year, for the best twenty apples, and year after year the public see the twenty sorts set upon the tables for their standing reward. Infinitely more valuable to the community, would be the knowledge of the most pro-

ductive sorts for market or for stock-feeding, proved so by actual experiment; or the knowledge between the product of orchards subjected to the best culture and treatment, when compared to those under ordinary neglect.

"The great leading advantage of the knowledge obtained as we propose, over that imparted by ordinary fairs, is this: Fairs teach only actual spectators, and for a single occasion; that which we propose, may be published and laid before millions, and may be perpetuated for ages to come; and a single fact, well understood, may affect an annual saving of untold thousands when adopted by the great multitude of the farming community."

TRANSACTIONS of the North Western Fruit Growers Associations, at their Third Annual Meeting, held at the City Hall, Chicago, Oct. 4th to 7th, 1853.

We have recently received a pamphlet bearing the above title, which is filled with matter of much interest to the fruit growers of the west. The meeting was well attended by experienced fruit growers from the most of the Western States—except Missouri, and interesting discussions were had on the comparative value of the respective fruits cultivated. We copy a few items of the decisions of the Convention. The book is a valuable one to all fruit raisers, and we hope the objects of the Society will receive more attention than heretofore.

Of strawberries the Large Early Scarlet, Necked Pine, and Hudson were recommended for general cultivation in the west; and McAvoy's Superior was recommended for further trial.

Of raspberries the Ohio Everbearing, and a yellow variety brought from Massachusetts, were recommended as the best for our climate.

Of currants, the Red Dutch and White Dutch were considered the best.

On gooseberries there was much difference of opinion and no decision.

Of cherries the Kentish, or early Richmond was recommended as best for market and culinary purposes, and the May

Duke and Bigarreau for general cultivation:

Of plums Prince's Imperial Gage, Coe's Golden Drop, and the German Prune were recommended for general cultivation, and the Lombard was recommended as first rate for market. Various plans were spoken of as successful against the Curculio; as keeping chickens or pigs, emptying soap suds &c., about the trees; or wrapping them with cotton batting.

Of grapes the Isabella was recommended for general cultivation; and the Catawba voted as best where soil and climate ripen it in perfection.

Of pears the Bartlett, Flemish Beauty, and White Doyenne were voted as best for general cultivation; the Louise Bonne de Jersey, and Passe Colmar were voted good; and the Bloodgood, Dearborn's Seedling and Sheldon pears were recommended for further trial. The Horse Shenk pear was voted as best by the Cincinnati Horticultural Society.

Of peaches Crawford's Early, Early Barnard, Early York, Large White Cling, Crawford's Late, and George Fourth were recommended for general cultivation.

Of apples the Summer Rose, Herfordshire, Pearmain, Pomme Gris, Roman Stem, American Golden Russet, Poughkeepsie Russet, Rhode Island Greening, and Wine Sap were recommended for general cultivation; and the Early Joe, Dutchess of Oldenbury, Mother Hubbard, Nonesuch, Peck's Pleasant, and Spice Sweet were recommended for further trial. The Blue Pearmain was recommended for limited cultivation as a large, fine, and showy apple, and moderately productive.

The next meeting of the Association is to be "held at Burlington, Iowa, commencing on Tuesday, September. 26th, 1854, to continue in session four days."

FRUIT TREES.—Our correspondent D. H. S. in the January number, and all others interested will find his questions in regard to fruit trees answered in the advertisement of Messrs. SIGERSON in our advertising department. We have more than once called attention to Sigerson's Nursery

and Fruit Farm; and we would take this occasion to do it again. They have probably the largest collection of fruit and shade trees in the West. See their advertisement, and see also the resolves of the Executive Committee of the Illinois State Agricultural Society, awarding them the highest honors of the Society for their magnificent display at the Fair last fall.

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE OSAGE ORANGE.

—Mr. D. C. Arens writes to the Editor of the *Valley Farmer*, under the date of Portland, Mo. Jan., 11, 1854. as follows:

"I made last spring a small trial with the Osage Orange for a hedge, and am very well pleased with it. I planted them ten inches apart, but as I think the main object is to have them very close at the ground, I took a side limb of one and bent it down and buried it about half between the plants and let the end stick out of the ground. I find that through the fall and winter they have made roots all along, and I think in this way I will make it closer than I would do otherwise, with half of the plants it would take to set them close together. I only tried this with a few plants and shall continue it next spring with the whole piece."

THE YEAR OF SABBATHS.—The Cincinnati Enquirer says, the year 1854 will be one of Sabbaths; and we hope that the genial and dews of heaven that fall alike on the rose and the night-shade, may rest on all other days of the coming year. The year 1854 will begin and end on the Sabbath. Five months of it will each contain five, and the year will number fifty three Sundays. The like of that will not occur again for twenty-eight years.

Won't it? According to our almanac, the year 1860 will contain 53 Sundays, and the year 1865 will begin and end on the Sabbath. Five months of it will each contain five, and the year will number fifty three Sabbaths, and the like of that will occur again in 1871, and again in 1882, three times in twenty-eight years. Always examine newspaper stories before you believe them. But that is no reason why we should not make a profitable use of the Sabbaths given us this year.

Profit of Sugar Raising.

Harper's Magazine for November 1853, contains an interesting statistical and descriptive article on the Plantation of St. James and its Refinery, by T. B. Thorpe.

The value of the estate and products for 1852, are set down in the article as follows:

Land 9,000 acres, \$40 per acre	\$ 360,000
Buildings, - - - - -	100,000
Machinery, - - - - -	60,000
Slaves, 215—107 field hands	170,000
Stock, - - - - -	11,000

Total, \$701,000

Production, 1852.

Sugar, 13,000 hhds. 6c,	\$78,060
Syrup, 60,000 gal, 36c -	21,600
Corn and Wood, estimated, -	14,400

Total products of the estate, \$114,000

Of the above 9,000 acres of land—it is admitted that only 15,000 acres are under cultivation, and the remainder is forest (Cypress Swamp.) Of the cultivated land, 800 acres were in cane, and 700 used for corn, gardens, pasturage, &c. &c.

Of the slaves, in all 215—107 are field hands, 9 are mechanics; 24 house servants and nurses, 11 old men and women, and 64 are children under 5 years of age.

From the above items and statistics any one at all conversant with Louisiana can readily make out a fair statement of the profits on sugar as an agricultural production. Mr. Thorp in his interesting article on sugar and the sugar region, of Louisiana, states that 84,000 dollars will build the house and purchase the machinery for the best class of plantations that make the common brown sugar—and this St. James Plantation, Mr. Thorp states, shows the average production of the best class of sugar estates in Louisiana, the largest of which in 1852, yielded a revenue of 152,000 dollars.

In order to get at the profits of sugar planting and making the common brown sugar of good quality, by the planter, we must largely revise the figures of the St.

James Plantation and Refinery. We make the capital and production as follows for raising and making brown sugar.

15,00 acres cultivated land, \$60, 90,000

15,00 " wood land (cypress swamp) all that is necessary,

\$6 9,000

116 field hands and mechanics all that are required for raising the cane and making the sugar at 800 dollars each, 92,000

Buildings and machinery for a first class brown sugar plantation, 25,000

Stock, as estimated by Mr. Thorp, 11,000

Total capital, 227,800

Product as represented by Mr. Thorp was in white clarified sugar, 1,300,000 pounds; and syrup of fine quality, 60,000 gals, but as we wish to throw out the refinery and its advantages and capital, we shall therefore give the average value of good brown sugar crops in 1852, on plantation, viz:

1,300,000 hds. sugar, brown, value	
4 1-4c, - - - - -	55,250
60,000 hds. syrup (molasses) value	
20c, - - - - -	12,000

Value, \$ 67,250

By the above it will be seen that an acre of cane yielded on an average 1,625 pounds sugar to the acre, and 75 gals. of molasses; the value of which at brown sugar and molasses prices for entire crops that season, was equal to \$84 per acre. It is admitted on well regulated sugar estates, making brown sugar, that the molasses about pays the annual expenses of the estate, leaving the sugar as net income—this being the case, the profits on sugar production last year averaged about 24 per cent. Compare this with the profits of the farmer raising wheat and corn in the West, &c. In our calculations for the capital of the brown sugar estate, we reject the 6,000 acres superfluous forest or cypress swamp; 99 young negro children and house servants—and the immense refinery and machinery for refining, costing \$160,000.

Agricultural Movements.

A Territorial Agricultural Society for Minnesota is to be organized at St. Paul during this month, by delegates from the different counties in the Territory.

HOWARD COUNTY.—The people of Howard county have organized an Agricultural and Mechanical Society. So has Ralls county; and we learn that the people of Shelby are likewise agitating the propriety of forming a similar Society in that county. These Societies are telling very favorably of the advancement of Missouri in an agricultural and mechanical point of view. In this respect no State has made more rapid progress during the present year than Missouri, and her future is still more bright and promising. So says the Hannibal Messenger.

A letter from one of the Board of Trustees of the Howard County Society to the Editor of the Valley Farmer, says, "You are aware that Howard County has formed an Agricultural Society, and has entered into it at last with that spirit that knows no failure."

FRANKLIN COUNTY.—We are requested to say that a meeting of this Society will be held on the first Monday in March, at which time an address will be delivered by Hon. C. JONES. The prospects of this Society are very encouraging. Mr. CHEATHAM, the President, authorises us to say that he will give a premium of a carving knife and fork worth \$3.50 for the largest and best fatted hog at the fair in the fall.

BUCHANAN COUNTY.—The St. Joseph Cycle of the 18th January, contains a call signed by eighteen of the citizens of Buchanan County, for a meeting to be held in the Court House in St. Joseph on Saturday, the 11th of February next, where all persons in that and the adjoining counties friendly to the enterprise are solicited to meet that they may organize a society with a constitution and by-laws for its government.

NORTH WESTERN SOCIETY.—We learn that this young and flourishing society, or-

ganized at Weston, Mo., last fall, is going ahead finely. The people of the surrounding counties are beginning to see the benefits of co-operating with their friends in Platte. The Directors have offered the following premiums for hemp to be exhibited at the next annual meeting, to be held in Weston on the first Monday in May next:

1. The best crop of Hemp, containing thirty acres and upwards, \$20 00. The second best crop of Hemp, containing thirty acres and upwards, \$10 00.

2. The best crop, containing from twenty to thirty acres, \$15 00. The second best, containing from twenty to thirty, \$8 00.

3. The best crop, containing from twelve to twenty acres, \$12 00. The second best, containing from twelve to twenty, \$6 00.

4. The best crop containing from five to twelve acres, \$8 00. The second best crop, containing from five to twelve acres, \$5 00.

ILLINOIS STATE SOCIETY.—The Executive Committee of the Illinois State Agricultural Society, was in session in Springfield, on the 3d ult., when it was fully determined to hold the next annual Fair of the Society in Springfield, provided that the sum of one thousand dollars be raised and contributed by the citizens, and that they provide for, and equip the grounds in a manner suitable for the exhibition. The Journal thinks can be little question but the condition will be complied with.

We notice in the records of the proceedings of this Board, the following resolutions reported as passed:

Resolved, That a trial of Harvesting and Mowing Machines, shall be made in Bloomington, under the direction of Vice President M'Clun, to commence on the first Wednesday of July, and continue until the Committee are satisfied—the machines to be received at Bloomington by the first of July.

Resolved, That a trial of Corn Planters and Grain Drills shall take place at Jack-

sonville, under the direction of Vice President Arenz, to commence on the first day of May.

Resolved, That in view of the various valuable varieties of fruit trees, evergreen trees and flowers exhibited by John Siger-son and Brother, at the last fair and for which no premium was offered, that this Society tender to him their diploma, the evidence on their part of the highest merit.

INDIANA STATE SOCIETY.—The Indiana State Board of Agriculture, met at Indianapolis, on the 5th Jan. The time for holding the next State Fair was fixed for the first week in October, and after considerable discussion the Board determined to postpone the question of fixing the place of holding the next State Fair; and leave it be settled by the Executive Committee.

We notice the passage of the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, an opinion prevails that the State Fair would be permanently located at the city of Indianapolis, at this meeting of the State Board, therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this State Board that it should not be permanently located at any place; but that it ought to be changed from place to place, as the best interests of the agricultural cause of the State may require.

NATIONAL CATTLE SHOW AT SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.—A large meeting of the citizens of Clark County, Ohio, was held on the 26th of November, and it was resolved to hold a "Cattle Fair" at that place on the first Thursday of September, 1854. The premiums will amount to about \$5,000, and will be open to all the world. Ample and beautiful grounds will be prepared, and arrangements will be made to accommodate all who may come, without extra charges. The matter is to be carried out on a grand and liberal scale, so as to induce the bringing of the finest stock in the world together.

An address is being prepared to the citizens of the United States, showing the reasons and advantages of holding the "fair."

NEW YORK STATE POULTRY SOCIETY.—

The New York State Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry will hold its first annual exhibition in Albany on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of February, 1853, at the same time with the winter exhibition of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society.

CLARK COUNTY.—A meeting of the citizens of Clark county, Mo., is to be held on the first Tuesday in February, for the purpose of organizing an Agricultural Society.

The Spanish Fever.

Capt. J. T. CLEVELAND, who emigrated from Howard county to Texas, in the fall of 1853, has written a series of letters to his son-in-law, the Editor of the *Huntsville Recorder*, which are published in that paper. In one of his letters he speaks of a disease which attacked his horses:

We encamped at Mills' Spring" on the night after leaving our Dallas Camps, on the 9th of October. Here several of our horses (three) which had showed symptoms of sickness, seemed much worse; and we were obliged to lay by. Two of our neighbors called upon us during the day, through whom we ascertained that the "Spanish Fever" was their disease. The symptoms of this disease, fever, stiffness of the limbs, laxity of the bowels and a looseness of the hair of the tail and mane, which, with the use of a little force, will come out, in large locks, by the roots. This state of things continued for weeks, or sometimes, even months, during which time the animal affected with it, lingers and pines away and three fourths of them die. It is said to be caused by change of climate, and I was informed that cattle driven from the north, or even from Arkansas, as well as horses, were often its subjects.

The working of horses, when laboring under the "Spanish Fever," is very prejudicial, and if persisted in, will, at once, cause them to give up. Little can be done for them, but to allow rest.

The "Spanish Fever" I never before heard of, and it is astonishing, to me, that no person visiting Texas, or living there and writing from there, ever said anything about this disease so common (as I have

ascertained,) in its attack upon horses and cattle on their arrival in this State. I consider it to be my duty, however, to inform you of all facts bearing upon the interest or convenience of persons immigrating to Texas from other States, whether they are influential for or against. I say, therefore, to all Missourians emigrating to Texas—work mules altogether, for I have never with all my enquiries, heard of one of these animals having to undergo an acclimation in this State. True, one might bring a favorite horse or two, free of working out, but I should prefer purchasing an acclimated horse here, for these animals rate no higher in this city than at Huntsville.

Selling Tow for Hemp.

Some hemp dealer at St. Joseph, (Mo.) is after the farmers in that region round about, through the Gazette, in this wise:

HONEST FARMERS AND RASCALLY MERCHANTS.

—What would a farmer think of me as an honest merchant, if I would sell him a barrel of sugar of my own packing, on opening which he should find in the centre carefully concealed, about fifty pounds of rocks. To-day I have been counting the number of bales of tow I have shipped the past season, and the number amounts to 41 bales, all of which I bought from time to time of sundry farmers for good hemp—carefully concealed in the centre of bundles, not discoverable till cut open for packing by my balers. I call this a small game of fraud, which no honest man will practice, no more than I would put rock in his sugar for extra gain. It is true I got but a small portion of tow at any one load, but during the season it amounted to 12,300 pounds, on which I have lost \$220, it having sold for about one-third of hemp price in St. Louis. Some farmers think they are justified in cheating in hemp because they sell 112 pounds for a hundred weight, they do not consider that the price is given in proportion to the quantity, for instance I would give \$4 for 112 pounds, but of course I would only give in proportion for 100 pounds, if 100 were the standard instead of 112.

Now all I ask is justice in this matter—it is a slim excuse for the farmer when detected in this fraud to shuffle the blame to his negro or “some *cussed* Mormon” that he gave a dollar per hundred to for breaking. I do not doubt the truth of such statements, but I say it is a poor excuse. It is the farmer’s business to ascertain what becomes of the tow at the break—and if he will bundle it up and bring it to

market by itself, any merchant will give him a fair price for it, at least one-third of the value of hemp—again, some merchants are in the practice of putting the tow they buy as described above into the centre of bales of hemp, thereby practicing the same fraud on the purchaser at St. Louis that was practiced on them at home by their farmer. This is wrong, no merchant should do it. Let each be packed separate and sell on their own merits, for honesty is the best policy, both among farmers and merchants.

CULTIVATION OF THE CRANBERRY.—Mr. Sullivan Bates, of Bellingham, Norfolk county, Mass., has issued a circular on the subject of the cultivation of the Cranberry. We copy the following paragraph:

“Prepare your soil the same as for sowing grain, by plowing, harrowing and making your soil even—then mark it out in drills, 18 or 20 inches apart, putting the plants in the drill, 5 or 6 inches apart—hoe them slightly at first, till the roots become clinched, and afterwards no other cultivation is needed. The plants may be expected to run together and cover the whole soil in two or three years. The Cranberry grown by cultivation usually yields from 150 to 400 bushels per acre; its fruit is two or three times as large as the wild fruit, and of a beautiful flavor; it readily keeps sound from the harvest time of it to the harvest time of it again. The fruit is generally gathered in September—is gathered with wire-teeth rakes, made for the purpose—one man will generally gather from thirty to forty bushels per day, with the aid of a boy to pick up the scattering fruit.”

“Young Men.—The most anxious moment is when he forsakes the parental roof, and goes into the wide world to seek a livelihood. The interests of life are crowded into that period: The tears of the mother and the counsels of the father consecrate the eventful moment. Away from old associates, and settled in some new home, how apt the former restraints are to be cast off. The trial of virtue now comes—the test of principle is now applied. If he holds fast to integrity, the prayers of his father and mother rising off when the still dews are falling, will bring blessings thick as the manna that fell around the camp of the elected nation, upon his path. But if he proves faithless, then will memory embitter his life, then will his parents welcome the grave, that they may hide their dishonor in the dust.”

Barley straw is the best for beds; dry corn husks slit into sheds are better than straw.

Pruning and Management of the Peach Tree.

Continued.

II. PROPAGATING THE PEACH BY BUDDING.

31. It is by budding that the Peach tree is propagated. The proper stocks for it are the Almond, the *Saint Julien* and *Damask* Plums, and the Peach itself. Lately the *Myrobalan* Plum has been budded on, and is said to produce excellent stocks for this purpose, but I have not tried it.

23. The finest trees are produced on the Almond stock, especially on the hard-shelled variety. It succeeds everywhere except on wet soils, or those subject to be flooded, because the roots of the Almond almost invariably perish when under water. It has the advantage of late growth; consequently, it is indispensable for the late variety of Peaches.

33. The Plum is better fitted for moist soils. Except in this case, I prefer the Almond stock because it imparts a greater vigor to the tree. This is the opinion of the growers also. Nevertheless the following example does not corroborate this: For ten years I have cultivated a wall covered with a hundred Peach trees, of which fifty were on Almond and fifty on Plum stocks, planted alternately. The soil was unsuitable for the culture of the Peach, being gravelly, stoney, clayey, &c. All the trees have, notwithstanding, grown well; Almond and Plum stocks have made an equal growth, so much so that, even after most scrupulous examination, I have found it impossible to say on which stock the tree succeeded best. The produce from both has also been in every respect equal. I still, however, prefer the Almond stock, although I have given this case as an exception in favor of the Plum.

34. The Peach itself is the least employed as a stock on which to bud its different varieties. They grow on it vigorously, but do not fruit so readily. They are also liable to gumming. I have budded the Peach on its own stock, and have been disappointed with the crop of fruit. I have remarked that by budding a second time, the

growth was moderated, and the crop was abundant. But this proceeding delays production; it must therefore be abandoned for the use of the Almond and Plum stocks. Beside, thus worked, the Peach is but short-lived.

35. If we desire to plant our own Almond stocks, we must choose hard-shelled Almonds, and put them in layers. In the first fortnight in January, we must put in a box or basket, alternately, a bed of sand of the thickness of the hand, and a layer of Almonds until the box be full, or till all the Almonds are used, and place the box or basket in a cellar, so as to be moist and protected from the frost. As soon as there is no fear of frost, that is to say about the end of April, the Almonds are planted in the soil, manured and trenched to the depth of sixteen inches at least. Holes are then made from six to seven inches deep, and about a foot apart, in each of which an Almond is placed, after breaking off about one-third of its tap-root in order to make the roots strike out more horizontally, and to prevent their going down too deep. This process has the advantage of fitting the Almond for these soils which have but a thin layer of vegetable earth. The Almond trees will be ready for budding at the end of August or beginning of September following.

36. If we bud on the Plum, suckers must be procured; these generally spring from the bottoms of large Plum trees. The preference is to be given to the *Black Damask*, which the cultivators near Paris generally get from Fontenay-aux-Roses. These are planted, on a properly prepared soil, from November till March; but November is preferable; they are cut down nearly to the level of the ground, when planted; and they are budded when they have made fresh shoots fit for being worked at the proper season.

37. The ground on which this nursery of Almond or Plum stocks is, ought to be kept perfectly clean. It is necessary to give the ground several stirrings, so that it may be loose and free from weeds.

38. The Plum stock is budded from the

middle of July to the middle of August; and the Almond and Peach stocks from the middle of August to the middle of September. The mode employed is almost exclusively that of shield-budding. Care must be taken that the buds are from very healthy trees and from shoots well ripened, and of a slightly abated growth. The stocks which are to be budded must, on the contrary, have their sap in full flow, so that, should the bud not take, the operation can be repeated. On this account the Almond is the most advantageous by reason of its late growth. As soon as the shoots for furnishing buds are cut, the leaves are taken off, allowing a portion of the stock about one-third or an inch long to remain. The spontaneous fall of this remaining portion of the stalk shows that the bud has taken. Although it is always better to employ the buds as soon as possible after the shoots have been cut off, they may be very well preserved by keeping the bases of the shoots in water. It is even good to adopt the same treatment for buds that have come from a distance.

39. The bud commonly takes in six or twelve days; this is known, as before said by the fall of the stalk. If, on the contrary, the stalk remains on, and the bud wither up and die, the stock must be re-budded.

40. Stocks can be budded, if planted in the place where the tree is to be formed, quite as well as those in the nursery. The last are always budded with a single eye, the shoot from which is pruned in the following spring. When budded in their position against a wall, a bud can be placed on each side of the stock; this gives two eyes regularly placed for the formation of the two main branches. A year is gained by this, for in the following spring, instead of pruning the shoot from the bud to allow of the growth of the two lower eyes, destined to form the two main branches, these already exist, and can receive their first pruning. But for that to take place, both buds must have taken well, and both must be equally strong. Yet it is true that if one of them die, we find ourselves, by straightening and pruning, in the same po-

sition as if we had inserted one bud only.

41. Nurserymen often commit the error of propagating, for too long time, a variety that they know to be good by taking shoots for the supply of buds from the plants of that sort that were worked the year before. It is better to renew these buds by taking shoots from full-grown trees. This is the reason that I bud myself the stocks which I have chosen in the nurseries; by this I am also more sure of the varieties; I, however, take the precaution of not nailing to the wall some shoots on the upper part of the tree which is to be propagated from, so that the sap may still be in flow at the time of budding. The necessity of having shoots of good growth for this purpose is the reason of nurserymen taking them from the open ground rather than from the walls.

42. By means of budding, several varieties of Peaches can be grown on the same tree. This gives no advantage, except in a case where it is desirable to have, in a short time, a greater variety of fruit than we should otherwise possess. Some buds are worked on the strongest shoots of the middle of the tree. Often these buds make shoots of five feet or more; the eyes burst and form fruit-branches; and sometimes the following year ten or twelve Peaches are gathered from the first shoot of the bud.

43. By the same means it is possible to change the nature of the fruit of a Peach tree. A person had planted double-flowering Peaches; when he saw them his first impulse was to order them to be destroyed. I persuaded him to do nothing of the sort, hoping to make his trees productive in a short time. In the beginning of August, I put ten or twelve buds on each tree, on the young wood as well as on the main branches. The success was complete, and in two years afterwards he gathered splendid fruit.

III. ON PLANTING THE PEACH TREE.

44. A. *On the Choice of Trees for Planting.*—Those who are unable or unwilling to bud their own trees, should be careful properly to select, or cause to be se-

lected, in the nurseries, the sorts budded on the stocks best suited to their soil. As I have already said, the preference is usually given to those budded on Almond stocks, with the previously mentioned exception.

45. After having chosen the sorts we require, we must pick out healthy and vigorous trees, with a clear and lively bark, and with a straight stem, properly furnished eyes at its base. The size of the tree must not be too much regarded, for there are certain much esteemed kinds, which, though appearing less vigorous, are, notwithstanding, equally advantageous.

46. It is necessary to apply to a nurserman worthy of confidence, whom we can trust in regard to the taking up of the young trees so as to preserve their roots, this being so important to their success. It is better to pay a trifle more per plant rather than run the risk of having trees with roots cut short and mutilated. We should also take care to have the trees planted as soon as possible after they are taken up; and if they have to come from a distance, it is necessary that they should be well packed, especially the roots, so that they may not be dried by the contact to the air.

47. Before giving the precautions which it is necessary to take in planting, it will be well to point out the aspects most suitable for the Peach. Although those I determine are specially applicable to the climate of Paris, it will be easy to modify them according as the locality may be more to the south or to the north, though the culture of the Peach extends but little to the north of the latitude of the capital. I shall also say a few words respecting the wall against which the Peach is trained, and, after having treated on these two subjects, I will return to the planting.

48. *a. Aspects and Soils most suitable to the Peach.*—The Peach tree equally dislikes an aspect that is too hot or cold; and, although it may be cultivated against a south, and likewise against a north aspect, it is preferable to plant it against an east or west. In this way, the same wall gives support to trees of which the produce

on both sides is nearly equal. This is not the case with walls running east and west; on these the trees facing the south have too much heat, while those on the opposite side scarcely see the sun, and either ripen badly, or not at all. This consideration has determined the greater part of the inhabitants of Montreuil, Bagnolet, and other places, where the cultivation of the Peach is the principal source of employment, to build their walls to run nearly north and south, in order that the trees planted on the east side may enjoy the influence of the sun from his rising till 1 p. m.; and those on the west for the rest of the day. However, we plant the Peach against aspects less favorable than those just mentioned; for the ground does not admit of placing the walls so as to afford the aspect we would wish. Walls are occasionally to be seen which do not receive any sun till 10 a. m.; we, however, cover them with Peach trees, which become very fine; but they give great trouble in pruning, because their wood or pushing-eyes are frequently at the ends of the fruit-branches, which must therefore be preserved entire if you wish to obtain fruit.

46. As regards the nature of the soil, the Peach is not so particular as some imagine. When well managed it grows anywhere, if the soil is only deep enough. Nevertheless its growth is much greater and more regular when planted in a light soil resting on a bottom of silicious pebbles among which the roots of the Almond find their way; it must also be one that does not retain the water so long as to prove hurtful to the roots when the summer is wet.

50. *c. Of Walls and Protection.*—When we have a garden the walls of which are already built, the aspects that they have must be made the best of. But when a new garden is made, it is well to bear in mind what I have said in regard to aspect, and consequently to lay out the kitchen-garden in the most suitable manner for building walls in the best direction for the trees.

51. When a Peach wall is built at Montreuil, it is 15 3-4 inches thick at the base,

a half. This method is advantageous where plaster is scarce, but not so convenient for training as the naked wall. On this account we do not use trellises at Montreuil, although the keeping the walls in repair and the nails and sheds are not less expensive than the trellis. Trellises are also made of iron ware, which answer very well as substitutes for those made of wood; but they require some care to be taken in tying the shoots to them, which will be noticed when treating of that operation.

54. For a new plantation, we lay out a border at the foot of the wall five feet six inches to six feet six inches in breadth according to our space. A good quantity of well rotted dung is laid on; the ground is trenched to the depth of eighteen inches or two feet, and the soil must be well broken and equally mixed with dung throughout. Many are in the habit of digging the holes three weeks or a month before planting. I never practice this myself, and I advise no one else to do so. The season for planting is commonly attended with sudden cold rains, which sometimes fill the holes, rendering the earth so wet and cold as to prove injurious to the roots; but this is not the case when the holes are made at the time of planting.

55. *D. Planting the Tree.*—Everything being prepared we plant in the course of November. The soil of the border having been newly worked, it is sufficient in good light soils to make holes one foot square [better two feet square] and two feet deep; but when the soil is of a clayey or damp nature, the holes must be two feet square and three feet deep, and the earth before being filled in must be rendered light by mixture with good garden mold. This method is to be preferred to that of planting in March, which has the great inconvenience of causing a loss of valuable time to the tree, which, when planted in November, is ready to vegetate the first fine weather in Spring; but when planting is deferred till March the vegetation of the tree is often retarded by the drying winds so prevalent at that season. The plants called *eighteen-months*

tapering to 11 2-4 at the top; and about ten feet high. The height is the most convenient for the square mode of training, that which I recommend. There is no objection to the walls being of a greater height. But experience has shown us that the height I have stated is sufficient; and it is prudent not to make an outlay too great in proportion to the produce which may reasonably be expected. The walls should be plastered on both sides an inch and a quarter thick, so as to admit of nails being driven in training. The walls should have a coping, which is made to project 5 1-3 inches for an east aspect, and 6 1-4 inches for the others. This projection is calculated for walls ten feet high; but it should be increased in the same proportion if that height be exceeded. It should also be increased by about two inches in walls having a trellis, in order to compensate for the thickness of the latter and its distance from the wall. Copings have the advantage of moderating the flow of sap in all the points of the branches that are nailed immediately beneath them; of preserving the Peach trees from drip; and of protecting them to a certain extent from spring frosts which cut off the flower, the coping preventing the escape of heat by radiation.

52. As the west and south aspects are those from which rains are most to be feared, and which are liable to the strongest action of the sun on the shoots and young leaves of the Peach tree affected by hoar frosts, we augment by means of straw mats the good effects which result from the copings. It is for this reason, that beneath the copings of walls with two aspects we fasten supports in the walls about three feet four inches apart. These supports must be two feet long exclusive of the part fastened in the wall. Straw mats of this width are fastened on these supports, when the state of the weather renders them necessary.

53. In the gardens of private individuals, it is the custom to cover the walls with a trellis of laths, the intervals of which are nine inches and a half by eight inches and

are preferred for planting. They are so called from having been eighteen months budded, or nearly so long. Trees which have been thirty months budded, and which have been cut back upon a lower eye, and of which the roots and much larger and less fibrous than the former, are not so good; still, in some particular cases, they are not to be rejected; for instance, they often take root better in new ground.

56. While the holes are being dug, the roots are trimmed, that is, their bruised extremities are cut with a sharp pruning-knife, and so that the cut surfaces may rest upon the earth when the tree is planted. At the same time its head is taken off at from eight to nine inches above the bud to allow of planting it with a sufficient inclination so that the stem may touch the wall; while the roots are so far from the foot of the latter as not to be cramped in growing by the foundations.

57. The tree is fixed in its place at six and a quarter inches from the wall, and not deeper in the earth than it was before. It is so placed that the eyes of the bud may be at each side, and not before and behind, without heeding the position of the original bud. It is of little moment whether the latter be turned one way or the other, provided the eyes be properly placed. For the formation of a fine tree in a short time, this precaution is of greater importance than most people suppose. Gardeners usually plant their trees with the budded part in front without paying the least attention to the position of the eyes. The following spring, when the tree shoots, they are astonished to see the greater number of trees thus planted with eyes before and behind; while those planted as I have directed have their eyes well placed, one on each side. When the tree is in the proper position the roots are carefully spread out, and then covered over to the height I have directed, or at least in such a way that the bud may be kept out of the earth.

58. A space of twenty-six feet is left between those Peach trees intended to be trained in the square form. When a Peach

and a Pear are to be planted alternately, there should then be a distance of thirty-nine feet between them. The intermediate spaces may be usefully employed by planting between each Peach and Pear tree a young tree, which can be brought up till three years old, and which may be employed to make a fresh plantation, producing a crop in a short time.

From Moore's Rural New Yorker.

The Field of the Slothful.

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all covered over with thorns, nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth; and thy want as an armed.—Prov. xxiv. 30—32.

Such a text, thoughtfully pondered, needs no sermon to follow it. It is a brief and truthful picture of the life and fate of the slothful husbandman. It is full of instructive suggestions to those who will look upon and consider it. It is a pointed and earnest warning against ignorant idleness, whom Poverty surely follows, and want soon overtakes and conquers. Let us meditate on the words of the wise man and look for the counterpart to the field of the slothful, if any such yet linger in the agricultural world.

Solomon had a thorough contempt for slothful, slack-handed farming, and lost no opportunity of giving drowsy ignorance a view of its own deformity, and its own certain fate. He tells the sluggard who "will not plow by reason of the cold," that though he descends to beggary, he shall "have nothing in harvest." He says, "he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame," and the crib of him that "keepeth no oxen," shall be clean of corn; and that all slackness and carelessness tendeth to poverty is again and again reiterated. The wise man was a firm believer in thorough culture; in promptness, diligence, neatness, and good order upon the farm. Let us see what our text teaches us:

1. It declares against weeds. No one but "a man void of understanding" would

suffer his field or vineyard to become "all grown over with thorns," or would allow "nettles to cover the face thereof," for it is evident to every thinking farmer that but one full crop can occupy the soil at one time, and if that is a crop of weeds, no corn or wheat can grow. If it is a partial crop of thorns or nettles, it will also be but a partial crop of grain. But the field of the slothful is not the place to look for clean culture. It requires industry, wide-awake, diligent handed industry, to keep thorns and nettles from growing and spreading from furrow to furrow, and from field to field. Let there be "a little folding of the hands to sleep," and the vineyard is grown over and covered, so that years of labor shall scarce clear it again. Leave them undisturbed and "thy poverty shall come as one that travelleth."

2. Poor fences are a sign of slothful farming. "The stone wall thereof was broken down." The "man void of understanding," and only he will suffer his walls and fences to go to decay. Poor crops are bad enough without having them destroyed by unruly animals, and probably the neglect to replace a stone or two, first tempted the half-starved cattle of the sleepy husbandman to trespass on his vineyard. Broken walls and fallen fences, need no word of condemnation—they ever characterize the Field of the Slothful—and ever show that Want, "as an armed man," has firm sway and full possession.

And now, having seen and looked upon the field of the slothful, "let us consider it well and receive instruction." Do our fields and vineyards show marks of negligence—of ignorant and unthoughtful cultivation? Do weeds find a peaceful foothold, even in the fence corners and along the walls, there to mature their seeds and fix their roots for a wider and deeper invasion? Are we "without understanding" of their constant tendency to impoverish the soil and injure the crops we would cultivate? Are we careless of the need that an unceasing warfare be waged against them? If we are, here is a warning for us. Our farms will soon "be all grown over with" Canada thistles, or "the face thereof covered with" red root, if we slumber to the fact that these or other vile weeds have a foot-hold upon them.

Is there any thing in our wall and fences to remind us of the field of the slothful? As neat, substantial walls, and well-built fences, are ever an adornment of a farm, so those of a fallen and tumble-down character deface whatever other beauty it may possess. Then see that ye have them not. Call not for "a little sleep, a little slumber," but bestir yourselves until no portion of your farm shall in any way remind you of "the vineyard of the man void of understanding." So shall poverty never overtake you or "Want, as an armed man," rule over you.

Suggestions to Farmers.

Food for the stomach; clothing for the body; a shelter from the storm, light for the mind; are the cardinal wants of all. But the most imperative is the first.

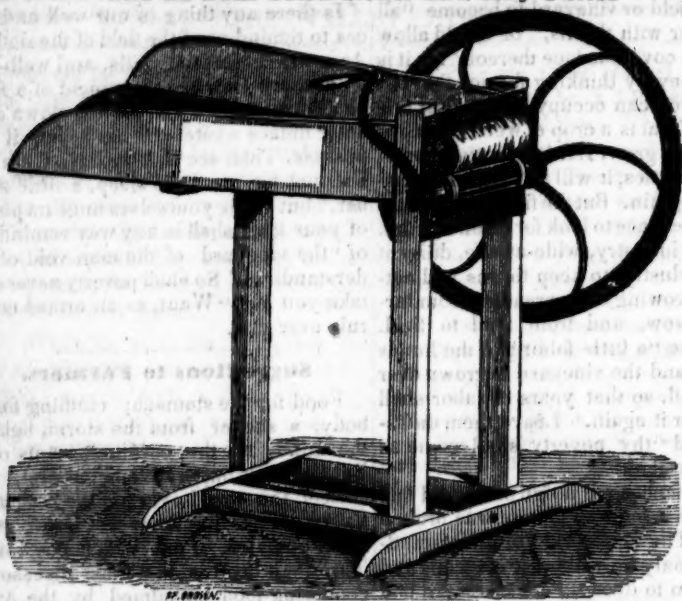
Beef the world over is the best meat. Every farmer may have it. Grass grows in all climates. Pork which costs much more than beef, is the most disease engendering food consumed by the American people. It never should be eaten.

Wheat, rye, barley and corn, can be raised in all parts of the country. Though like beef, wheat is the very best of food for man.

Milk stands by side of beef and wheat, and like the former can be easily had the year through by every farmer. Two of the best articles of food known to the world, and produced by grass alone, which grows in abundance all over our country, may be had through the year, by every farmer—beef and milk.

Besides these, what other articles—substantial articles of food—common to the whole country? The potato; the cabbage; the white flat turnip; the yellow turnip; the onion; the carrot; the parsnip; the bean; the beet; the pumpkin; the squash. These are rich in nutriment, genial to the human system, and promoters of health. A garden of one acre would supply a family with all these articles which would and should constitute in the cold season, a large proportion of the food of the table. These articles are too much neglected. A well cultivated garden of one acre will support a family. And a farmer should as soon neglect keeping a cow as to neglect a garden.

The Ne Plus Ultra Straw and Hay Cutter



The Ne Plus Ultra Straw and Hay Cutter is constructed with a cylinder of knives cutting against a raw hide roller. The knives are confined in slots, with a cap on each end fastened by screws, which enables the farmer to take them out and grind them when dull, or replace with new when broken or worn out—thereby doing away entirely with all set screws, nuts, and bands. Sold by WM. M. PLANT & Co., 14 Main street, 7 sizes. prices from \$7 to \$24.50, according to size.

ENGLISH SHEEP.—The London correspondent of the Washington National Intelligencer writing from that city, thus speaks of some large sheep he saw in the market there:

We have heard much of the great weight to which sheep are sometimes fed in England, and our belief was really staggered by some of the reports; but we really saw, on Monday last, in one country butcher's shop, four sheep, which had been raised in Gloucestershire, whose weight as mutton, was 250, 245, 216, and 197 pounds when slaughtered and dressed for sale, respectively. A shoulder cut fairly from the largest, weighed 42 1-4 pounds. Two Lincolnshire sheep, in the same shop, weighed 216 and 201 pounds respectively.

BOOKS FOR CASH.—See the advertisement of Mason & Brothers' wholesale book and stationery house, in New York. The inducements held out to purchasers of books to patronize this house, are such that every merchant visiting New York should give them a call.

Bound Volumes.

We have a few bound volumes of Vol. 2, for 1850, Vol. 4, for 1852, and Vol. 5, for 1853, for sale at our office. The price of Vol. 2 is one dollar, and of Vol. 4 and 5 one dollar and thirty-five cents each; or all together and the Farmer for 1854 for four dollars and fifty cents.

☞ The Postage on the Valley Farmer is now only six cents a year to any part of the United States.

☞ When you return a paper for discontinuance, or when you write to the publisher of a paper to send a paper to a new subscriber, or to discontinue or change the direction of an old one, be sure and write your name, the name of the postoffice and the State you live in.

Mr. Greeley's Address.

We are indebted to Messrs Fowlers & Wells of New York, for a copy of Mr. Greeley's address before the Indiana State Agricultural Society, from which we make a few extracts:

PRODUCTIVE LANDS.—It is not necessary that lands should be cultivated in order to be productive. The young, growing wood is earning money for its owner, as well as the corn field. He who has land that he does not need, yet wishes to keep for his children, can hardly serve them better than by enclosing it effectually, planting it with locust, hickory, and other choice timber, and leaving it undisturbed till his sons may require it. But even left in open, naked common, land generally tends to improve from the renovating influences of the atmosphere alone, as the reclaimed 'old-fields' of the South bear witness. It is only poorly farmed land that is a blight to its possessor and a discredit to the country. If all the labor now devoted to farming, throughout the Union; were wisely concentrated on one half the land, our annual product would be much larger, our lands would appear far more productive and valuable, while the timber that we are now wasting and destroying as though Prophet Miller's speedy conflagration of the world were a demonstrated verity, would be gladly re-investing the earth with a beauty and graceful majesty which Cabot or John Smith may have realized, but of which our children seem destined to have none but hearsay evidence.

BOOK FARMING.—Let me linger still on this topic of Book-farming, and pile illustration on illustration of its true character and manifold advantages. You may tell me that this is needless, but I know better; since I know there are tens of thousands of farmers in every quarter—nay, right here in Indiana—some of them, I doubt not, now before me—who take no agricultural paper—nay no paper at all!—because they think they *can't afford it*!—that it has no other than a speculative or fancy value for their use—that they would be poorer for taking it! Now I maintain that no farmer or artisan that can read can readily afford to do without at least three weekly newspapers; one to bring him the general news, politics and social movements of his time; another to teach him whatever of discovery, invention or improvement may from time to time be made in his own pursuit or calling; and the third to keep him advised of whatever of interest may transpire in his own locality or county. He may be so very poor and inefficient that he is justified in obtaining two of these by exchanges with his equally luckless neighbors; but these three he should at least read every week, because he cannot

afford to be without the intelligence they bring him. And while there are thousands who are bringing up sons for farmers and daughters for housewives without taking a periodical or even owning a book that treats of Farming or housewifery, it is absurd to say that this stupid prejudice against Book farming has been already sufficiently dealt with, since it is this day so potent and mischievous. Bear with me, then, while I attempt to let in some daylight upon it through a few homely facts:

I was visiting some old friends in Vermont last summer, when I observed in the garden of one of them the most thrifty and luxuriant grape vine that I had ever seen growing in so cold a climate. Now it is one advantage possessed by the class of ignorant cultivators to which I belong over that sort who not merely know nothing but glory in it, that we are not at all reluctant to confess our ignorance when we see a chance of thus mitigating it. I, therefore, at once asked the lady whose vine this was, to tell me by what means she had insured it such vigor and productiveness; and she replied that she had made it her rule ever since the vine was set there, to throw a pailful of soap-suds at its root at the close of every washing day. Again, in the same garden I remarked a scar or ring around each plum-tree, just above the ground and on inquiry, ascertained that those trees had been girdled last spring by some malicious scoundrel, who had halted one dark night, on his way from the gutter to the State prison, to perpetrate this dastardly outrage. The owner discovered the mischief early next morning, and, having a pot of copal varnish in the house speedily applied it with a brush to the wound on each tree, covering each with a coat of varnish; and by this means every tree was saved. When I saw them in mid-summer, they were as green and thrifty as any tree within miles. Now I do not stand here to maintain that soap suds will *always* insure an abundance of fine grapes, nor that a coating of varnish seasonably applied, will *always* save girdled trees; for I do not know such to be the fact. I trust further experience and inquiry will cast light in both points—that soap suds will be withheld from the door-yard and given to the grape-vines; and that every tree that any prowling rascal may girdle will be promptly coated with varnish—until we shall determine under what circumstances, and with what limitations, potash or soda is beneficial to grapes and varnish an antidote for girdling. The point I make is this, that no sane farmer, having heard this relation, will henceforth throw away his soap-suds or neglect varnishing his girdled trees, unless he learns some reason for doing otherwise; and that, if he would do so on the strength of my

mere narration, he ought many times rather to do so had he found these same recipes in an Agricultural paper or manual, where the chances are ten to one that it would not have found a place unless on the strength of testimony more reliable than mine, because founded on a wider and more varied experience, and subjected to a more rigid scrutiny.

Take another case: My friend Dr. R. T. Underhill was a physician in extensive practice some twenty years ago, when in the prime of life, having become heartily tired of gallipots and bone-sawing, he shook off the dust of our city from his feet, and resolved henceforth to live an honest life as a grower of fruits. He went forty miles up the Hudson, bought a neck of land, and commenced the cultivation of the grape, which he has since prosecuted with scientific knowledge, untiring energy, and at length with decided success. He has probably assuaged more suffering with his grapes than he ever created by his drugs; he has grown considerably younger by his twenty years' farming, and is now taking his place among the most brisk and genial of our youth—an admirable specimen of that branch of 'Young America' which does not hate to work nor long for opportunity to steal.

Well: the Doctor since the untimely death of the lamented Downing, stands, probably, at the head of our fruit growers, with whom one knotty problem of the last few years has been—how to counteract the ravages of the Curculio, which is nearly robbing us of plums, for which his taste is equal to ours, while in the matter of gratifying it he is decidedly ahead of us. By the time he has taken his quota, the plums left on a tree, or score of trees, are not worth gathering. But Dr. Underhill, by long study and careful observation has discovered the means of completely outwitting him. He has found, by watching and noting her movements, that the female Curculio will not deposit her eggs where they, when the plums containing them drop, will fall into the water, her instinct teaching her that they will thus be drowned. Taking advantage of this instinct, the Doctor plants his plum trees on the bank of a stream or pond, and gives the trunks such an inclination that all their branches overhang the water. Thus the desolator is checkmated by his own instinct and the fruit preserved from his ravages. I know nothing cleverer in its way than this device.

Now I suppose there is no contemner of Book-farming, so mulish or so dull that he, would not, after hearing of this device, take advantage of any brook or pond he might have on his premises, and set his plum trees where they will be safe from the Curculio. But suppose the discovery had been made by some fruit grower of the last century, and duly re-

corded in a book; had since been subjected to a thousand ordeals, and had passed triumphant through them all—would it have been less acceptable or valuable than it now is? If it be worth our while to learn at all, what difference can there be imagined between the knowledge founded on a neighbor's experience and that contained in a book? If there be any, are not the odds altogether in favor of that prescription which has undergone the wider scrutiny and been subjected to the more rigorous criticism?

And here let me speak of another, who more recently shook off the dust of our City's pavements to spend the latter half of his life on a farm. I allude Prof. JAMES J. MAPES, whose fame as an Agriculturist must have reached very many among you. It cannot be very many years—it seems to me but five or six—since Professor Mapes, who was extensively engaged in sugar-refining and had heavy dealings in Sugar—came to a dead halt, or rather a dead smash. Stripped of means and of credit, he felt too old to launch again on the dangerous sea of Commerce, whose waves had so lately and so deeply engulfed him; so he hired a bit of land in New Jersey, removed his family thither, and resolved to turn the chemical and other scientific knowledge which had so little availed him as a Sugar-Refiner, to account in the novel vocation of a farmer. He was very destitute, and of course got on but slowly at first; and when he first undertook to lecture in illustration of Farming as a Science, I well remember how very general was the prejudice and derision he encountered. But he persevered both in farming and lecturing; and he has gloriously succeeded. I presume there were many errors in his earlier inculcations; there may be some yet, for he is a genius, and genius is too apt to leap hastily to sweeping conclusions from inadequate premises. But whatever his faults the root of the matter was in him, and his career has proved it. As a Lecturer, an Editor, and as a practical Farmer, he is enriching the vocation he has chosen and by no means impoverishing himself. Beginning with nothing, he cannot have cleared less than \$20,000 in the last six years, and his income must now be at least \$5,000 per annum. And this is not all made by merely talking and writing about farming, but in good part by actual work. For example: he last year bought ten acres of naturally good but exhausted and weedy land adjoining him for \$250 per acre, pulverized it, fertilized it thoroughly to the depth of two feet, planted it with cabbages as close together as they could grow, and by the sale of his first crop paid for the manure, labor and land, having the latter all clear at the year's end, and in far better condition than when he bought it. Can any enemy of 'Book-

farmers' beat this? Or is there any of them who would not exactly like to know how this land was fertilized and tilled, even though he should be obliged to read it in a book or periodical.

CURING HAMS.—In the last Patent Office Report, Mr. Jas. Campbell, of Weston, N. J., gives the following as a superior process for curing hams:

"The best method I have found for curing hams, is, after the hams have been cut, let them lie out on the shelf, where they can have plenty of cool air, so that the animal heat is entirely out of them before you attempt to put them down in salt; then corn them down for two or three days; after which drain off any bloody water which may come out; and then make the following pickle, sufficient to cover them: Take 9 pounds of salt, 3 ounces of saltpetre, 1 oz. of saleratus, 4 pounds of brown sugar or molasses, and six gallons of water; let them lie in the above pickle from three to six weeks, according to the size of the hams; when you may take them out and smoke them with hickory or apple wood until sufficient to suit your taste. They should be taken down and hung up in a dry, cool place in bags to protect them from the flies.

I have hams cured after the method, which were almost as fine when eighteen months old as when taken from the smoke house. And while upon the subject of hams, I would further say that, when you boil them, they should be boiled until done, in good, soft water; and when nearly done, throw in a handful of Timothy hay; it absorbs all impurities which may be around the outside of the ham. As soon as done, take out the hay, but leave the ham in the water until nearly cold, when you may take it out.

COOPER COUNTY LEAD.—Mr. William Scott of Lamine township, twelve miles west of Booneville has, deposited with us with the dispensation of Professor Swallow, a rich specimen of galena or lead ore, and he has samples of the same ore, equally rich and weighing about 30 lbs. It will not be long before the Professor returns, and with but little trouble our citizens could have a fine display of our geological resources to facilitate his investigations. We again call their attention to the importance of the subject and solicit specimens contributions.

Those who are always mending the road to Heaven have no time to pursue it as the man who carries the lantern stumbles oftener than he who follows it.

LIVE FENCES.

Directions for Transplanting, Cultivation and Management

BY C. R. OVERMAN.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

The rapidity with which this new enterprise has sprung up into importance on our western prairies, is a sufficient comment upon the confidence which is generally felt in its utility and certain success. The history of prairie hedging is very brief. Ten years since the writer introduced here, the Virginia hedge-thorn, with the hope of living to see it supercede, in a measure, the old and laborious method of fencing with rails. Though most farmers felt interested, and were disposed to encourage the project, so far as words would go, only a generous few had the temerity to 'take hold.' Of these few, a portion have realized the object so eagerly sought, a complete and lasting fence of living green—though at a cost of time, and toil, and patience; yet none who have bestowed the proper pains, have failed in the attempt, or regretted the outlay. The thorn however, was found to be of too slow growth to meet the expectation of this 'lightning age.' While all admired the appearance of the hedge rows in the various stages of growth, and were charmed with the beauty and effectiveness of the finished hedge, yet the time required to complete it, was a sufficient obstacle to deter the mass of farmers from the undertaking. But so soon as it was demonstrated that a hedge could be grown on prairie soil, inquiry became eager for a plant of quicker growth, combining all the requisite qualities of the thorn. In short, a material of which a complete barrier against all stock, could be constructed in the shortest time, with the least expense.

Happily for the country the desideratum was supplied by the introduction of the Osage Orange (*Maclura*), only four years ago. Being a native of the south, it was at first received with distrust; the apprehensions of its want of hardiness was the first objection, but when it was found to withstand the rigors of a winter in the 42d parallel, this objection vanished. Still, a host of others were

urged against it, such as the fear of its sprouting from the root, growing too rapid and requiring too much labor in clipping, liability to die out by being crowded, &c., &c. Time has proven that these objections are without experience, and that their cavils are groundless, for in the face of them all, the enterprise, so far from proving a 'humbug' has steadily advanced with greater rapidity than any industrial interest that has ever gained a footing among us.

As an instance of the progress of its upward tendency, we may state that in the spring of 1848, a few thousand Osage Orange plants were scattered over the country, in small lots, and planted as experimental hedges. The planting of each year has increased in a rapid ratio, and according to the last statistics we can collect, there will probably be planted in hedge rows, in Illinois alone, this spring 25,000,000 plants; and yet, comparatively few of our farmers have commenced hedging *in earnest*. As a general interest, it is destined to become one of vast magnitude; it is therefore, important that the best instructions possible, should be liberally disseminated. As information on the subject of hedge culture in general, and of the properties of this plant, in particular, is eagerly sought, it may not be amiss, here to give a brief description of the plant, but we would just premise, that as indispensable requisites, a hedge plant must possess the following properties, to wit: sufficient hardiness, great durability and vitality, vigor of growth, capacity to bear cutting severely, with a tendency, when headed down, to put forth numerous small branches, with myriads of sharp, elastic and durable thorns; the whole to remain vigorous and green though densely crowded in the hedge.

It is believed that the *Maclura* possesses all these qualities in an eminent degree, while the facility of its cultivation, and its consequent cheapness will render it universally available. Mr. Neff, of Cincinnati, a (gentleman of most extensive experience and research) pronounces it decidedly the best hedge plant in America. We therefore deem it not presumptuous to regard it as the means, appointed by the hand of Providence for subjugating our vast fertile wilds, and converting

their inexhaustible fertility to the use of man.

It cannot be that these delectable plains—these 'unshorn fields of the desert'—boundless and beautiful as the young earth, ere man had sinned, so richly endowed with hidden treasures, were destined to remain unbroken wastes. Here nature's wildest denizens have surrendered their claim. The thundering tramp of the buffalo has long since died away and the red man has retreated from the dread innovation of the 'pale faces.' Here the aspect of nature is undergoing a rapid change, already many districts, but lately deemed too remote from timber for settlement are converted into smiling farms, and thronged with a thriving population, and the time is not distant when the largest prairies in the Mississippi valley may be densely settled throughout their entire extent.

This may seem extravagant and visionary, but let us see how far the great enterprise of hedging is likely to facilitate the settlement of the largest prairies, with very little reference to timber, and that too, by reversing the existing order of progress, by commencing in the centre and extending to the circumference. It is well known that the land in the midst of large prairies is generally more rolling dry and rich than it is along the margin, besides, such lands are *cheap*, for an obvious reason. Hedges may be grown on new land, with very little expense of cultivation, (the setting and clipping would be the principal cost,) and where there is little or no stock to molest it, no fence would be required for protection; it will grow as well on the open prairie as any where else. Groves of quick growing timber may be planted for fuel, and thus any number of farms may be hedged, with pasture, grove and orchard on each. In five years from the time of planting all may be completely ready for the settlement of a colony, material for building would be the only timber needed. This digression, however, was not intended, but to return to the more immediate subjects of these remarks, it is but justice to say that the splendid results of hedging are promised only upon the observance of certain conditions, which, however, are simple, and easily complied with. Hav-

ing now introduced to the reader the plant which we believe to be the best suited to our purpose of any in the vegetable kingdom, we next proceed to give him explicit directions for every part of the process.

But you must bear in mind that while with proper care and pains, you can make "every thing" of the Maclura, if you neglect it, and leave it to *shift for itself*, as many do, you will be likely to make *nothing at all* of it, and you would not desire a more unsightly nuisance on your farm, than a ragged, half missing hedge row. We cannot therefore, be too imperative in enjoining the strict observance of the following directions, which are the result of our own experience and observation, together with the best information we could obtain. If you fail in the attempt, we desire that the fault may not "lie at our own door." But there will be no occasion of failure if justice is done. All we ask for the Osage Orange is to give it "fair play" and we will guarantee a satisfactory result.

PREPARATION OF THE GROUND.

Clear off a strip half a rod wide, in the middle of which the hedge row is to be set. Plant a tall stake at each end, and by these range other stakes along the line; plow about four furrows on each side as deep as possible, finishing with a deep, wide, straight furrow, in the line of the stakes.

The plowing should be done in the fall, to secure the advantage of amelioration by the frost, but if this has been neglected, it may be done as early in the spring as the frost will permit. In either case if the land be rolling, with sharp or long slopes, dams should be thrown across the furrows, at short intervals, with side furrows to turn the water out and prevent washing in case of heavy rains. In this condition the ground may lie till the time for planting arrives, when the preparation is to be completed, for which, a moist time is preferable. If the ground be cloddy, harrow it lightly, then throw the sides together by "back furrowing;" by this means you will form a deep, mellow border, which will greatly facilitate the planting, and permit the roots to grow freely.

When the bed is finished, it is to be a few inches higher than the common sur-

face, and if very light and loose, should be allowed to settle a few days before planting, otherwise, unless deeply set, the border is liable to settle afterwards, and leave the upper portion of the roots exposed, as in too shallow planting, a common and fatal error.

TRANSPLANTING, &c.

When the buds have expanded and the leaves are half an inch long, we consider the plants in the best condition to set.

We have practiced several modes of transplanting, and will recommend the one we think the most expeditious, easy, and certain. The implements used are a hedge line, a transplanting trowel, and a rake with iron teeth; any light strong cord will answer for a line, but something like a strong chalk line is best, it may be stretched tight, and spots made on it with red paint, the distance apart you wish to set the plants. It should be at least ten rods long for convenience. The ends are to be tied to stiff stakes, three or four feet long. The trowel is a steel blade, about ten inches long, and three inches wide, tapering towards the end in an oval shape. It should be a fourth of an inch thick in the middle, and tapering to an edge at the sides; and in order to scour and work well, it must be ground and well polished, a curved shank is attached to the upper end, on which a wooden handle is placed horizontal to the trowel, and in a line with the edges.

A time when the ground is moist, and the weather cloudy is preferable for the planting. When all is ready for the work, reset the stakes, (if they have not been left standing) where they first stood at the ends; by these, set as many intervening stakes as may be necessary, *exactly in range*; do not forget that the beauty of the hedge depends greatly on the straightness of the line. Rake the ridge down level with the surface, taking out the coarser clods, &c., for about the distance the hedge line will extend, stretch the line tight and set it exactly in range of the row of stakes, three inches from the ground; three or four sticks with niches cut in them, and stuck down at intervals along the line will serve to keep it steady. As it is easier to work on your knees, you will therefore require thick pads on them. Take the trowel in one hand,

place it opposite a spot and thrust it down the whole length, press it to one side with a twist, and with the other hand insert the plant, two inches deeper than it stood in the nursery.

Raise the trowel and put it down, an inch from the plant, as deep as before, give it a twist towards the plant, which will fasten it at the bottom; and in this manner proceed to the end of your line, when another section may be raked, and the line removed. Finish by treading each side of the plants, and your hedge will be planted on "scientific principles."

ASSORTING AND PREPARATION OF THE PLANTS.

The first and most important requisite in hedge culture is the *equal and uniform growth of the plants*. To insure this, it is necessary that the plants should be carefully assorted into classes, with reference to their size and vigor, this operation requires the exercise of care and judgment, and cannot, therefore, be well done by us in the hurry of taking up the plants, when we have many hands employed, besides, a single person may make the size more uniform than if several were engaged. The roots must not be permitted to dry or freeze in the air.—Take a few hundred plants at a time, spread them out and separate into two classes in about equal numbers.

If a large plant should have less root and apparent vigor, it should be put into the smallest class. When all are assorted in this manner, proceed with a sharp knife, to trim and shorten the roots, if too long; the side roots may be trimmed off to half an inch, and the tap root shortened to about eight inches, sprinkle the roots occasionally to prevent drying. Next prepare a "grout" or mortar, by mixing equal parts of cow dung and clay well beaten together, make it thin enough to admit the roots, dip the roots into the puddle. (a handful at a time,) see that all parts of the roots are coated with it, keep each class separate. Next dig a slooping trench in the ground, lay the plants in straight, with the roots even, the top above the surface, sift fine dirt amongst the roots, and cover with dirt two inches deeper than the top of the roots, tread the ground firm about them and if the weather be dry and windy, sprinkle twice a week.

In this condition let them remain a few weeks, and when vegetation commences they will be ready to set out in the hedge row.

Plants and trees thus trenched will start much earlier than when planted at once. The reasons are various, and to state them all would make this too prolix, but it may be well to remark that all deciduous trees and plants should be started by forcing, as above, and if properly handled they will grow much more readily and certain, without being checked, (though in full leaf,) by the removal.

CULTIVATION, CLIPPING AND AFTER MANAGEMENT.

If the ground should become dry soon after planting throw two light furrows from each side to the plants, and it would be well to cut off the tops to three inches, with a sharp knife, as soon thereafter as the grass and weeds begin to appear, plow lightly, throwing outward from the row, scrape off the surface between the plants with a hoe. In this way throw the dirt to and from the row as often as grass and weeds show themselves the first season. If furrows are left on sideling ground care must be taken to prevent washing.

Late in autumn, throw two rather heavy furrows inward to the plants. An excellent plan where the material is plenty, is to "mulch" or litter the ground two or three inches deep, on the appearance of grass and weeds in the spring, and if well done, no other cultivation will be needed for the season, besides, it keeps the ground loose and moist. Straw, hay or litter of any kind may be used. If spread on before a rain it will settle down and be less liable to blow off; cover all the border, but leave the plants uncovered. Before the buds put out the following spring, remove the ridge of dirt from the roots, take a scythe and mow off the plants within two inches of the ground; if any plants are missing, fill the vacancies carefully with the strongest plants you can get; cultivate, or mulch as before. About the second week in June cut all off again to five or six inches of the first cutting, if it grows rapidly it may be cut again about the first of August.

If the growth is not vigorous, the August cutting of the second year may be omitted; the third year will require less

cultivation but more clipping, to wit: in April, June and August, cut each time a few inches above the preceding. The side branches may be shortened somewhat. The fourth year, follow up the clipping as before, and with closer side trimming in the spring, leaving the hedge only about a foot wide. By the end of the fourth season, if circumstances have been favorable, and *you have done your duty*, you will have a barrier that will be impenetrable to all stock. But it *must* be borne in mind that however well you cultivate you can never have this without *severe and judicious clipping*, to which most of you seem to have an utter repugnance. *Upward tendency* seems to be the prevailing desire, and a row of tall, slender canes that resemble "fishing rods covered with pin hooks," is thought the most promising feature of the hedge, while in fact, it is the very *reverse*. Without a *thick live bottom*, a hedge is worthless, and to have this, you must *clip, clip, clip!* Be not too sensitive on this point, for all depends on it; so sure as you neglect this, it will not be obtained.

SUGGESTIONS.

A few more words in the way of general suggestions and we have done. We cannot conscientiously encourage any one to undertake hedging who does not mean to do it justice. We would earnestly recommend all who intend to hedge to make their calculations a year beforehand to get amply ready. To be *right* in the beginning, the middle and the end is the great matter that will insure success; what is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

SALE OF FINE STOCK.—The fine stock advertised to be sold on Monday, at Fayette, by Mr. Coleman, was disposed as follows:

Three year old bull sold to Capt. W. D. Swinney, for \$165.

Two year old bull sold by M. B. Collins, for \$100,

Four month old heifer sold to Capt. Swinney for \$50.

Yearling bull sold to B. F. Broadus for \$100.

Cotswold buck to same for \$125.

We are glad to see our farmers turning their attention to stock. No business pays better, and many of them are well prepared to go in to it on a liberal scale.—*Glasgow Times*.

From the Rural New Yorker.

What a glorious Lot is the Farmer's.

What a glorious lot is the farmer's

In the hours of partisan strife,
When so many are bleeding and dying,
For the charms of political life!

While a legion of loafers, now seeking
A chance to "grind in the mill,"
Must meet with a sore disappointment,
From the merciless popular will.

The farmer pursues his vocation;
Content with "the powers that be,"
He stays at home peaceably gathering
The Fruits of "the Land of the Free."

The hopes of the Demagogue building,
On the smiles of dissolute men,
By a sentence of public opinion
Must return to the cold earth again.

But the farmer has hopes far surer,
He has gathered from mountains in bray;
No whim of the "Administration,"
Can blight them, or sweep them away.

On the plains of WASHINGTON's country—
On the field, that ne'er heard of defeat,
A long line of "whip" politicians,
Are beating a sorry retreat.

But the farmer is clothing in beauty,
The valleys, the wastes, and the wood,
Which were once but devoted to carnage,
And drench'd in the patriot's blood.

What a glorious time have we farmers,
In this melee of partisan strife!
When so many are weeping and sighing
O'er the woes of political strife.

Corn and Cob Meal.

An intelligent farmer, writing to the "Germantown Telegraph," from the West, gives some good ideas on the above subject; but many of the farmers of New England have, to quite an extent, long been accustomed to grinding the cob and corn together, as a great saving.

He says,—"The corn cob has generally been considered worthless to the farmer, except for fuel and manure. Lately, however, it has been customary with some to grind it into meal with the corn—machines for this purpose having been invented which operate with admirable success, and enable the farmer to convert his refuse corn, with his cobs, into excellent meal, without the expense or fatigue of shelling. I am persuaded that of all the late improvements that have been suggested, no one is of more decided *practical* importance to the farming interest than this.

"It is, I presume, obvious to most reflecting minds, that the cob of Indian corn contains a large amount of nutriment. The *pith* is replete with *farina*, and if ground, it furnishes an article of which very excellent bread and

puddings may be made! Why, then, should not the same article be valuable for fattening swine, neat cattle and other domestic animals? A dough made of corn and cob meal, is a valuable food for fattening poultry. The meal itself will sustain working oxen and horses under circumstances of severe and protracted exposure. If any person questions the truth of these assertions let him reduce them at once to the test of experiment and he will soon find them true, and be led to rejoice in the discovery, as it will, with care and attention on his part, enable him to make a very important saving in the expense of keeping his animals, and especially those which require graining, to enable them to perform their accustomed task on the farm or on the road.

"And here sir, allow me to suggest that common hay, together with all the other articles ordinarily used for feeding neat cattle would be vastly improved in value if reduced by grinding. I have no doubt that a meal made of hay, or even of cornstalks, would possess sufficient additional value over and above the raw material to defray the expenses, and I have no question that before many years, hay ground, or hay meal, if it be not too absurd to use such a term, will be as common as Indian meal or rye meal now is. I have some facts to communicate hereafter in reference to this matter, which I think will be interesting to your readers. We are in the "midst of a revolution," in farming affairs, and are beginning to look around us with our eyes open for the light, I trust."

Horses, Mules and Pork.

A writer in the Maury (Tenn.) *Intelligencer* notices the fact that the prices of mules and good horses steadily go up in spite of all mutations and fluctuations in the prices of other property, and reasons upon the subject as follows. His views cannot but be interesting at least to our agricultural readers, and we commend them to their attention. The comparative scarcity of fine horses is becoming every year more and more noticed throughout the country. We quote:

"First. Mule growing has reduced the number of horses, and mares to produce them in the following manner: the whole South are growing mules; in all the States, South and West in the production of at least four mules to one horse colt is reared, and not more than one-eighth of the colts are of a filly foal, consequently the horse species are diminishing rapidly. As mules do not breed, nor extend their species, and a constant drain and draw is made on the horse stock, the consequence is, that a good saddle and harness horse is not to be had. The Northern States have become scarce of horses, having been drawn upon for mares until they have none to sell; consequen-

ly they have advanced 100 per cent. in the last four years; and it is obvious to any thinking man that mules are obliged to sell high in years to come, and horses still higher. Good saddle or harness stock will be worth from \$200 to \$400 in less than four years, in the same ratio that they have gone up in the last four years.

"They are comparatively extinct in this country, and we only see a good gelding now and then, produced in some other country.—The stallions have been driven out by the long eared tribe, and a superior horse is scarcely to be seen at all. A good filly foal is worth from \$75 to \$100, when the same animal has been sold in former times for \$80. Unless the matter is remedied soon, mules must supplant the horse. Another source of their immense value is, that it costs but little to drive them to market, when they travel thirty miles per day, and your pork only eight or ten miles.—The latter article costs near one-fourth of its value to put in market."

Requisites of good Farm.

The committee appointed by the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, to award the premiums on Farms, made a most valuable report at the late exhibition of the Society. They state in viewing the farms entered for premiums, they endeavored to keep in view as standard requisites and evidences of good farming the following points:

1. A good soil, well tilled, and kept free of vicious weeds, both on the fields and the roads;
2. Lots well fenced, and suitable in number to the size of the farm.
3. Substantial and convenient barns and stables of sufficient dimensions to contain the produce of the farm, and to comfortably house the cattle kept on it.
4. A judiciously arranged dwelling in neat condition, with a well and filtering cistern.
5. Convenient buildings to facilitate the economical management of the farm; among which may be enumerated a wood-house, a wagon and tool house, a granary and corn house, a convenient piggery, an ice-house, ash and smoke-house, all secured against decay by being well raised from the ground and neatly painted or white-washed.
6. Convenient yards attached to the barn and stables, so arranged as to prevent wastage of the liquid manure, well sheltered from the blasts of winter, and provided with water for the cattle.
7. Door-yards laid with grass, and rose and flower-beds, and shaded by ornamental trees, indicating to the passer-by the dwelling of taste health and comfort.
8. A kitchen garden highly cultivated, and containing every species of vegetable that can be raised in our climate, with strawberry and asparagus beds.
9. A fruit garden or orchard, where choice apples, cherries and plums are carefully cultivated, and where can be found neat rows of raspberry, gooseberry, blackberry and currant bushes.

The Valley Farmer.

ST. LOUIS, MO., FEBRUARY, 1854.

The Law of Newspapers.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they have settled the bill and ordered the paper discontinued.

4. If subscribers remove to other places without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction they are held responsible.

5. The Courts have decided that refusing to take a paper from the office, or removing and leaving it uncalled-for is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

Subscribers will therefore understand—

1. That their papers will be continued after the expiration of the time for which they have paid unless otherwise ordered.

2. That no paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid up to the time at which the notice is given, unless we are satisfied that the subscriber is worthless.

3. That when the paper, through the fault of a subscriber, has been suffered to overrun the time, the just and most convenient way is to remit one dollar for another year with directions to discontinue at the end of that time.

We are indebted to Capt. Stephens, Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, for copies of the act of Incorporation, Constitution and By-laws of the Society, and Maj. Wright's Address, delivered before the Society last fall.

SINGLE SUBSCRIBERS.—We have on our books the names of several hundred subscribers who get their paper from a post-office to which no other copy of the Valley Farmer is sent. Any one may know that such is the case with him if his paper comes to him enveloped, with his address written on the envelop. We presume that nine-tenths of such subscribers by a little exertion might induce one, two, three, or more of their neighbors to join them in making up a club. Will not every one try and get *one* subscriber.

IS THE VALLEY FARMER WORTH A DOLLAR?—Mr. W. W. Bobo, of Mount Vernon, Mo., has sent in thirty-eight subscribers to the Valley Farmer since Jan. 1, and in his last letter he says:

"I want to raise the list to one hundred for the present volume if possible, which I think would bring quite a change over the

people of this county. I am very successful in getting them. I appeal to their interests by telling them that I have no doubt that I saved the life of a valuable horse last summer by having the Farmer; which is an argument that few can resist."

We have been told the same thing about saving the life of a horse, by more than one other person lately. We wish there were a few hundred friends about the country like Mr. Bobo and Capt. Henry, of Jacksonville, Ill. If there were we could tell a bigger story about our circulation than any publisher in the State.

Our Exchanges.

We give this month, notices of a few of our exchanges, chiefly agricultural. We design to continue the list so as to embrace all our agricultural and literary exchanges. We begin with the

PRAIRIE FARMER, the pioneer in the work of western agricultural improvement. Mr. Wight now occupies the editorial chair, with Dr. Kennicott in the Horticultural department. The Farmer is very much improved every way, and we are glad to know is liberally sustained. We had the pleasure of making the personal acquaintance of both the editors at the Illinois State Fair. The Prairie Farmer is published at Chicago, by Wright & Wight, at \$1 a year.

THE NEW YORK MUSICAL REVIEW for Jan. 19th, contains a new Hot Corn Song by George F. Root; also, a Part Song by Lowell Mason, a sacred Opening Piece by Wm. B. Bradbury; all new and very beautiful; beside musical articles, sketches, anecdotes, news, correspondence, and a large amount of very interesting musical matter generally.

The Review is issued once a fortnight by Mason Brothers, New York, at one dollar a year, in advance, and is the cheapest musical periodical in the world. Lowell Mason, Thos. Hastings, Wm. B. Bradbury, Geo. F. Root, and C. M. Cady are among its editors; and each number contains four pages of music and twelve pages of reading matter. Now is the time to subscribe as a new volume has just commenced.

THE HORTICULTURIST and *Journal of Art and Rural Taste*. Edited by P. Barry, published by Jas. Vick, Jr., at Rochester, N. Y., at two dollars per annum. Colored edition, four dollars. The January number of this old and popular magazine is an excellent one, containing twelve beautiful engravings. We fully endorse what the publisher says of it, that it is a beautiful number, not excelled in appearance by any of the Monthlies, while its matter is just such as is needed by every cultivator of Fruit and Flowers—by every one who desires to make a pleasant country or suburban home. The publisher assures us that his arrangements for the year are perfected, and confidently promises that the Horticulturist will be better in every respect than ever before. The Horticulturist should have a large circulation among the farmers and fruit growers of the West.

THE OHIO FARMER AND MECHANIC'S ASSISTANT—a large weekly miscellaneous paper, published at Cincinnati, Ohio, by Thomas Brown, editor and proprietor, at \$2 per annum. We have received the first number of vol 3, and are much pleased with it. The farmers on the Reserve are not the men we took them to be if they do not give it a liberal support. By the way we sent our paper for nearly a year to the Ohio Farmer, expecting to receive it in exchange, but it never came. Will it come now.

THE GRANITE FARMER AND THE FARMER'S MONTHLY VISITOR, have been united and is now issued on a large folio sheet, by our old friend Judge POTTER, at Manchester, N. H., assisted by LEVI BARTLETT.—Weekly, at \$1.50 per annum. Besides being an excellent agricultural paper, Judge Potter is publishing a series of historical and Biographical articles of much interest.

THE RURAL NEW YORKER, a quarto weekly Agricultural, Literary and Family Newspaper, conducted by D. D. T. Moore, assisted by Joseph Harris and E. Webster, with a trio of corresponding editors. Price \$2 per annum. This is our model paper, and when the proper time comes for us to

establish a weekly paper in St. Louis, we shall take Moore's *Rural New Yorker*, if it is then alive—and we hope it may live a thousand years, and Moore, too—as a guide to go by in getting it up. This is our sentiment, and if any of our readers want a good family paper, just let them order the *Rural New Yorker*. It is published at Rochester, N. Y.

THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER, Edited by Simon Brown, with E. Holcomb and H. E. French, assistant editors, published by Ruggles & Nourse, Boston, at \$1 a year. Perhaps the best agricultural paper printed in Boston—that famous city for agricultural periodicals; at any rate good enough for any body. It is beautifully printed—48 pages to each number.

THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, a *Weekly Journal for the Farm, the Garden, and the Fire Side*. This Journal combines in one large sheet, an Agricultural, Horticultural and Family Journal, furnishing, besides its large amount of practical matter on Rural affairs, in its Fire Side Department, a choice selection of articles peculiarly adapted to interest and exalt the views and aims of the Family Circle, together with a careful digest of the News of the Week, and a full report of the Produce and Cattle Markets. It is illustrated with superior engravings, and printed in a neat and attractive style, making two handsome quarto volumes of 416 pages yearly. Price, \$2 per annum, in advance.

All letters to be addressed to LUTHER TUCKER, Albany, N. Y., Publisher.

MONTGOMERY'S PICTORIAL TIMES.—We have received the first two numbers of this new weekly illustrated paper, lately started in New York. It is to take the place of the *Illustrated News*, and is to be published by Alexander Montgomery, the experienced publisher of the *Magazine of Art*, edited by the best of American writers and illustrated by the most eminent artists. Price of subscription, \$1 50 per annum, or 3 cents per copy. Address Alexander Montgomery, 17 Spruce street, New York.

[Original.]

Culture of the Grape.—No. 2.**PROPAGATING OR RAISING YOUNG VINES.**

Vines are raised several different ways. Nurserymen, Horticulturists, and those who are propagators by profession prefer those raised by single eyes to all others. Buds are taken with about an inch or less of wood on each side and placed in a propagating house or hot bed frame, in the same manner as other cuttings. When they are sufficiently rooted they are potted off into pots three inches in diameter, or the buds are placed separately in two or three inch pots in the first place, and after the plants have grown some eight or ten inches they are planted out on the ground, or again potted into larger pots to remain till sold. This method answers very well for persons who have some knowledge of plants and their propagating; but to persons who do not profess to know these things raising by layers is more certain.

Layers.—It is generally admitted that layers make the worst plants, and single eyes the best. Layers raised in the usual way, by laying a branch of the old vine in the spring, never make good plants; they possess less vitality than vines raised in any other way; the plants are always feeble; they have too much of the plant about them, and being sustained by the nourishment derived from the parent plant they are ever after helpless and appear to be too indolent to any thing for themselves. A plant raised from a single eye or cutting starts on its own bottom and never having been dependant on another plant for sustenance makes its own way, like a self made man, by the force of its own energy; and although it may not come on quite so fast in the outset when it is once fairly off it grows faster, bears shorter jointed, and more prolific wood, and possesses more vitality than vines raised in any other way. A vine raised from a cutting comes next in vigor to those raised from the single eye. Farmers and gardeners may raise them easily from cuttings with less care and watching than is necessary when raised from single eyes. In this climate the cuttings of the native kinds ought to be eighteen inches in length having four

joints; the lower end to be cut close immediately below the last bud and planted in a sloping direction up to the second bud from the top, leaving the first bud out and the second bud on a level with the ground, and the other two of course underneath. This is making the cuttings longer than what some European cultivators recommend; but it is absolutely necessary in this warm climate, otherwise they may dry out in the summer. The ground should be manured with some rotten manure well dug and thoroughly pulverized. I have had them succeed better by planting in November and early in December than any other time. The usual way is to put them down in March or April, but I am persuaded that they commence rooting in the winter and thereby get an earlier start in the spring. An excrescence is formed during winter on the lower end of the cutting, resembling a wart on a person's finger; this is the first process in the formation of roots, previous to their sending out fibres. They may be planted in rows two feet apart and the cuttings six or eight inches from each other; put them in a sloping direction because the soil settles down on them and closes tighter. If you plant them in an upright position the frost may raise them up. Slope them at an angle of forty-five degrees, that is about half way between quite upright and quite flat; a shady place where they will have the sun one half the day is best, but not under the shade of trees. Put them where some building casts its shadow over them the hottest part of the day, and place some rotten leaves or old rotten manure on the ground between the rows. This will protect them during the heat of the summer. They must be removed from this bed the next spring or they will crowd together too much. The second year—if they all take root—they will be thicker than necessary, but as there is some uncertainty in this warm climate, it is well to make some allowance for the probable failure of a great portion of them.

If the weather should be unfavorable in the spring, the shoots on the extremity of the cutting may wither, and the bud which is near the surface of the ground may rally and make a good plant. If bot-

of those buds should push well, the one on the end might be rubbed off and the shoot near the ground will take fresh root from the bottom of the green wood and make a finer plant. They will grow faster if tied up, but as they will be cut down close again in the autumn, it may be hardly worth while to go to that trouble with them. If the cuttings are placed where the plant is intended to remain, finer vines will be obtained as they do not like to have their roots disturbed, for this reason, plants that are raised in pots are sometimes preferred to all others, because you turn out the entire root without mutilation or injury. You might plant out your cuttings in the rows where they are intended to remain and after retaining a sufficiency at the proper distance from each other, dispose of, or transplant the excess. When the cuttings are started about three inches it is very probable the young shoot on the extremity will begin to flag. The cutting has by the expansion of the sap and juices produced all it can do, and no further progress will be made by the new plant until new roots are formed. Now is the time to supply them with water should the weather be dry, place a tub full of water in the sun to take the chill off it, and sprinkle them any time when the sun is not shining on them; after they make a start again the watering may be discontinued.

Although vines raised from layers are by common consent put down as inferior plants, there is some exceptions to the rule. I have now two plants of the Catawba six years old, raised from old wood layers which are not more than an inch in diameter, and all the care I can give has not been of any use in promoting a vigorous habit of growth. They increase a little in size every year, but so little that one cannot perceive any difference in the size of the stems. At the end of the season, close alongside of this Catawba, I have two Isabellas three years old, raised from layers and full one inch in diameter, bearing a full crop of fine grapes as any in the neighborhood. The Isabellas were raised from young green shoots, the ends of the leading shoots of the parent plant were bent down so that the base of the young green shoot when

about a foot was covered in the soil long about two inches; new roots were formed in about ten days afterwards and having a good soil to grow in it made a growth over twenty feet long in one season. It must be understood that no portion of the last year's wood was covered in the ground except a small portion of the base of the young shoot, say three or four inches in length, in this case there was very little more old wood than there would be in a plant raised from a single eye, and less than in a plant raised from a cutting. After the plant had grown out six feet in length intending to head it down there in the autumn, I suffered the whole above that point to grow at random; laterals were formed strong enough for bearing wood, and in the latter part of June I commenced detaching it from the parent plant, by cutting a small notch in the old wood close to the ground, continuing to cut the notch a very little deeper once a week till by the early part of September, the connection was nearly severed, only holding by a small portion of wood and bark, less than the eighth of an inch thick. When the leaves had fallen it was entirely separated and dug up and found to have abundance of very flexible roots some of them eight or nine feet long, and about the size of a tobacco pipe, they were layed by in a green house all the winter, and planted out the next spring, that same year they produced four strong shoots each, the next year eight strong shoots were suffered, producing a few bunches, and this being the third year, they were all cut back to a foot or eighteen inches in length, and are producing twenty strong growing shoots with fruit on every shoot, making altogether a growth equal to any plant of the same age raised from a single eye or cutting. This I attribute to the layers being made with so little of the old wood, whereas the two Catawbas close alongside of them which are six years old, were from old wood layers put down in the usual manner in the spring, are not half the thickness in the stem and have not more than three strong shoots and no fruit, where the Isabellas have twenty vigorous shoots and some fifty good bunches, from this I infer that layers may be as good as plants

raised from cuttings, provided they are not encumbered with old wood, but this is done at the expense of the parent plant. The substances which would in a great measure descend into the roots of the parent plant having been intercepted on their downward passage and retained by the young layer; cutting a notch gradually through below the layer severs the connection between the foliage on the young layer and roots of the old plant.

To be continued.

From the Evening News.

Awards at the Crystal Palace.

The New York Tribune, of the 20th, gives a complete list of the Silver and Bronze Medals, awarded by the JURIES of the Crystal Palace Exhibition, with the names of the Exhibitors on whom they are conferred, and of the articles which they are given to reward.

The whole number of silver medals is 115, which indicates that the Juries have bestowed them with considerable liberality. Of bronze medals there are 1,186, while 1,210 Exhibitors (or articles) receive the more simple distinction of an honorable mention.

The greatest number of silver medals falls to the lot of the United States. The next country in rank is France, which has 15; while Great Britain has 9, Germany 5, and Switzerland, Australia and Italy one each. Of the bronze medals, the United States has 505, Great Britain 143, France 153, Germany 106, Prussia 30, Belgium 10, Switzerland 20, Holland 12, Austria 18, Italy and Sardinia 44, British Possessions 29, &c.

The list of awards fills nine and a half closely printed columns of the Tribune. We content ourselves with selecting those that more directly interest our readers.

MISSOURI.

Douglass & Beer, St. Louis, for dew rotted Hemp.

Saunders, John R., for dew-rotted Hemp, unshackled from the brake, produced by Sibley.

Selmes, T. R., Hannibal, for gentlemen's Hunting and other Buckskin gloves—a superior article.

Shands, J. G., St. Louis, for Millstone Dressing Machine.

Parker, Alfred A., St. Louis, for Tobacco Plug Machine Press.

Ross, J. A., St. Louis, for Miller's Sewing Machines.

Roderman & Ronce, St. Louis, for an Improved Two Wheeled Plow.

Thornton Grimsley & Co., St. Louis, for complete Military Equestrian Equipment for a Major General and a Colonel in the U. S.

Army. The materials and workmanship are of a fine quality and character; the construction of the saddle, combining all the modern improvements, and presenting a superior and useful article of Equipment.

The above are all Bronze Medals.

ILLINOIS.

Silver Medals.—Atkins, Jearum, Chicago, for an exceedingly ingenious self-raking Reaper, exhibited by J. S. Wright, of Chicago. The silver medal is awarded for the new mechanical principle as here exhibited in its adaptation to the Automaton Raker.

Salmon, George B., Elgin, for his patent Grain and Grass Seed Separator.

Bronze Medals.—Manny, John H. Freeport, for a Reaping and Mowing Machine, from the assurances that it has heretofore given of practical utility.

McCormick, Cyrus H. Chicago, for his Virginia Reaper and Mower a machine very much in use in this country.

Atkins, Jearum, Chicago, for a new Automatic Mechanical Device.

United States Agricultural Society.

The Second Annual Meeting of the United States' Agricultural Society, will be held at Washington, D C., on Wednesday, February 22d, 1854.

Among the objects of the Association are the following: The acquisition and dissemination of the best experience in the Science of Agriculture;

The union of the men who desire to advance to its legitimate rank, this most important of all human pursuit; and,

The increase and extension throughout our country of a more cordial spirit of intercourse between the friends of Agriculture, by whose countenance and co-operation this Society shall be elevated to a position of honor and usefulness worthy of its national character.

Business of importance will come before the meeting. A new election of officers is to be made, and in which every State and Territory is to be represented.

Applications will be laid before the Society for the holding of National Exhibitions in different parts of the Union.

Delegations are respectfully solicited from all the Agricultural Societies in the country, and the attendance of all Agriculturists, who may find it convenient to honor the occasion with their presence.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, President.

WILLIAM S. KING, Secretary.

January, 1854.

The authorities of Cincinnati are deliberating on the propriety of purchasing one hundred and eighty-one acres of land for a public park.

From the Boston Cultivator.

Breeding Horses.

A few years ago it was feared that the introduction of railroad communication by superceding the stage-coach and the former modes of traveling, would greatly lessen the number of horses, and render the breeding and rearing of them a comparatively unimportant business. Instead of this, however, we have witnessed a continued increase of those animals, accompanied by a steady augmentation of prices. The explanation of this is, simply, that the increase of business which has been caused by railroads, requires the use of more horses than were formerly needed.

Horse-breeding is now, therefore, regarded with much interest throughout a large portion of the country. In the Northern and New England States, attention is chiefly directed to the production of horses adapted to light draught and quick action—such as are usually denominated *roadsters*. Various ideas are entertained as to the shape and points best calculated to give value to such an animal. In some sections the standard on fashion requires height rather than weight and substance; a horse of less than sixteen hands high being regarded with but little flavor, whatever may be his qualities in other respects. We are sorry that the influence of this absurd fashion has been injuriously manifested on some important occasions. At the late show of horses at Springfield, for example, an attempt was made to rule out from competition those of fourteen hands in height, throwing them into the class of ponies. And although this proposition was defeated, the idea on which it was based evidently prevailed in the award of the highest premium.

We are opposed to the fashion to which we have alluded, in regard to the height of horses, believing it to be fraught with pernicious tendencies in reference to the qualities of the race. We believe a similar fashion has been the means of deteriorating English horses, and if suffered to prevail here, will produce equally disastrous results. In proof of our position, we invite attention to certain extracts from a pamphlet recently published in

England. We have not yet met with a copy of the work itself, the notice of it herewith given having been taken from the London Veterinarian. The author treats particularly of the degeneration of cavalry horses and roadsters. That the degeneration complained of actually exists is admitted by the Veterinarian, which observes:—

"Those who are old enough to remember—among whom we may reckon our nameless author—what noble, fine, strengthly horses in former times composed the troops of Horse Artillery, and can recollect what condition those splendid animals were in at the battle of Waterloo, must, indeed have sighed when they came to see the cattle which the same troops brought with them to the Chobham camp, no more comparable to those of former days than, as our bard says,

"Hyperion to a Satyr."

The cause of the former excellence of English horses, and also the causes of their degeneration, are given in the following extracts from the pamphlet. We hope the principles involved in those remarks—especially those which relate to the *height* of horses—will be carefully examined by all who would encourage the production of the best animals of the species.

"The main cause of their former excellence was the creation of what was called our 'Turf.' Large importations of good Arabs, followed as they were by a careful and continuous selection, not for one quality, but for a fine union of qualities, succeeded for many years in producing, both for the turf and for all useful and pleasurable purposes the best saddle-horses in the world.

"We possess a document which throws some light on the nature of the tasks our earlier horses performed. Their stature so late as 1764 seems to have ranged from fourteen to fifteen hands; a horse of the latter height being considered tall.

"Referring to this document, Mr. Smith says, 'It appears that in the year 1718, twenty-three matches were made at Newmarket, and in all but one of them the distance run was four miles. In the next year only two races are recorded. First, the Duke of Wharton's

Galloway, 8st. 10lb., against Lord Hillsborough's Fiddler, 12st., six miles. At Newmarket, in 1720, there were twenty-six matches, none of them less than four, some six miles. In October, the Duke of Wharton's Coneyskin, 11st. 10lb., against Lord Hillsborough's Speedwell, the best of three heats, twelve miles, 1000 guineas. The match was drawn. In 1721, twenty matches were run, and with few exceptions, these distances seem to have run up to the year 1757.

"This account of the running of our older horses is interesting, because every one acquainted with our present race-horses knows that none of them could perform a fourth part of these tasks without breaking down. We see, indeed, the best horses at the present day, after winning a race of only two miles, disabled from ever running again.

"If after reading these extracts from Mr. Smith's work, the reader will look at the portraits of such of our elder race horses as have been handed down to us by the pencil of Seymour and other artists, he will find that the forms of those horses corresponded with the great tasks they accomplished, for they had short legs, deep bodies, wide hips, and strong loins. The fine shape of those horses show how little as a race they had been injured by their great performances, which commenced early in the reign of Charles the Second.

"With the exception of a single race at Newmarket, of four miles, and only twice a year, two miles, two miles and a half, one mile and a half are the distances now usually run. Then how is this four mile race run by our present horses? By cantering through a great part of it. The tasks now performed, however, are enough, and more than enough, for the diminished powers of our present horses.

"Thus we see into what a vicious circle the present system of making momentary speed everything has led us. In viewing the defects of our present race-horses, as respects useful purposes, I must add that they exhibit straight shoulders, and to an extent unknown to our turf so late as thirty years ago. This great defect in our race is another cause which makes it now so difficult to breed the first class of

saddle-horses, and is one of the results of breeding 'in and in,' for the purpose of following up a blood which has had momentary success in racing. Few people unconnected with the turf can imagine the degree of constitutional weakness exhibited by our present race-horses. The growing stock requires as much corn daily as they can eat, and for the first twelve months each has also the whole milk of a cow. It will here be said it is the early running which renders high feeding of the young stock necessary, but it is not so; on the contrary, many of the foals possess so little vigor, that without unnaturally high feeding they would be mere weeds, as they usually are when bred by persons not intending them for the turf, and who in consequence do not feed their young horses so expensively. This high feeding sometimes enables those who breed for the turf to produce very large animals, but wanting that compact form which springs from much constitutional vigor in the parents. Nothing is so different as the form produced by extravagant feeding, and that which results from much constitutional vigor.

"It is curious to observe the helplessness of our thorough-bred foals, which usually cannot move about for some days after being born. On first observing this I thought it natural, but soon found it was the pure effects of constitutional weakness in the parents, as the foals of all other breeds of horses throughout the world run about as soon as they are dropped."

The remedy which the author of the pamphlet proposes, is to go back, in breeding, to the Arabian—a proposition to which the Veterinarian agrees by saying:

"The 'in and in' system, selecting sires and dams, seeking after speed and successful running, to the exclusion of other properties, seems to have been carried at last, however successful it might once have proved, to degeneracy in regard to the horse of power and endurance. He seems to want fresh blood, or a renewal of blood, with the breed of the race-horse. We derived our first blood from the Arab, and to the Arab we must return for the required reinvigoration. Captain Nolan, in his work on 'Cavalry,' expresses the same opinion. 'The blood

our (Cavalry) horses require is not that of our weedy race-horse (an animal more akin to the grey hound, and bred for speed alone,) but it is the blood of the Arab and Persian, to give them the compact form and wiry limb in which they are wanting. But we must take care to procure a pure Arab—one of the first class."

We would not be understood as holding the opinion that there is any special necessity for a resort to the blood of the Arab horse in this country, though we should be pleased to see some experiments in this direction. Fortunately, animals are within the reach of American breeders which possess the requisite stamina and substance, with no lack of action, nervous energy or courage. But much information may be derived from the remarks we copy, as well in reference to the proper course to be pursued as to that which should be avoided, in order to produce the most serviceable and valuable horses.

We have only space for the following additional paragraphs from the pamphlet.

"Most of our Arab horses, which have of late years come to this country, have not been of the first class, being purchased on the coasts of certain Eastern countries, by persons having little acquaintance with horses beyond that of profit and loss in buying and selling them. Thus, while the Arab horses can only be purchased in the Desert at high prices, no one either in England or India will now give those prices for any class of Arabs, seeing that they have very little marketable value here since discarded on our turf. Still, even under this discouragement, an Arab horse now and then arrives in this country, having much merit, and in breeding from which good stock has been obtained for every purpose, save that of competing on the turf with the speed of our present race-horses. Arabian horses, as found in the Desert, are not without speed, as was shown some years ago at Goodwood; but they can only run at their full stretch for about a half a mile. At a hand gallop, and under a burning sun, their endurance is scarcely credible, and their value in the desert rests on the distances they can travel at that pace, without fatigue, or being attacked by staggers from long exposure to an

ardent sun. When a horse has acquired in the Desert reputation for his power, a large sum of money can be obtained for him, as the life of a freebooter is often made to depend on the endurance of his horse.

"Whenever competent judges shall go into the heart of the Desert, ready to give high prices, they will obtain very valuable horses, but such persons must look to fine form and true action, as well as endurance. On no account must they select horses with straight shoulders or weak loins. Neither must they object to a horse on account of low stature, because when our system of feeding is applied to small but vigorous Arabs, the progeny obtained from them will, like that obtained from their predecessors on our turf, be only too much disposed to acquire high stature, in doing which, they after a time wholly lose the compact and strong form of their ancestors.

"There is no doubt that the stature of our early race-horses did not exceed fourteen hands, while that of our present ones is rarely less than sixteen hands, and often more, while they have lost the fine symmetry of their ancestors, that performed, so long and so well, great tasks."

Dry Food.

There are numerous disadvantages necessarily attending the feeding of neat stock exclusively on dry food. Horses, oxen—and in short, all domestic animals—fed on cut hay in a dry state obstinately refuse, after a time, to consume all that is given them. They become fastidious, and consequently less healthy and thrifty in condition than when fed partly on moist or succulent food.

The process which experience has demonstrated to be the most judicious and economical, and, at the same time, the best adapted to promote the several objects contemplated by the feeder is the following:—

A trough, or other suitable vessel of sufficient capacity, is to be provided, and into which a sufficiency of cut oat, rye, or wheat straw, stalks or hay, is to be put, to furnish all the animals with a single meal. For every three animals to be fed, add four quarts of meal with just enough water to moisten it, and let it stand for several hours, or if practicable, till incipient fermentation has commenced, and a slight acidity is perceptible. In this state feed it to your animals, and you will find that not a particle will be refused by

them, and that they will continue in better condition than when fed exclusively on any other feed. If desirable, the process of preparing the food may be further systematized by having several troughs for mixing the ingredients. This will enable the feeder to prepare food in advance of his wants, and consequently to have a feed always ready at the hour it is wanted. A straw-cutter of the latest and most improved pattern, should be found on every farm. It will enable the husbandman to work up to advantage, a large amount of material that would otherwise be lost; as cutting corn stalks, tops and butts, fine, mixing with them a quantity of roots or apple, chopt into small pieces, or raspt with a rasping machine, and scattering over them a very small quantity of meal of any kind, together with a little salt, a very palatable and nutritious food will be secured, and one on which most animals will winter as well as upon the best English hay.

Pumpkins and squashes, as well as roots and apples, are often prepared and mixed with refuse fodder in this way.

But—as we believe, the true way of preparing feed for farm stock of all kinds is not yet practiced in the country. We believe the time will come when *steam* may be used, so that after paying the interest of the cost of the fixtures and fuel, a saving of nearly or quite *one-fourth* of all the hay, roots and grain may be made, and that the farmer may have that surplus over and above what he now has to sell. Who among our enterprising farmers, will commence the experiment? [New England Farmer.

Dwarf Pears.

There is probably no branch of Horticulture more justly claiming the attention of farmers and market-men generally, than the cultivation of Pears on Quince Stocks; the maxim that trees will not succeed well for any length of time where they are grafted on any other than their own species, does not apply here, as many varieties of the pear grow vigorously, and bear abundantly of delicious fruit and more exquisite flavor than on their own roots. The impression that had prevailed to some extent, unfavorably to the cultivation of the Pear on the Quince, has rapidly disappeared before the solid arguments contained in the large disks filed with luscious fruit, thus grown on trees but recently transplanted and exhibited at our late Agricultural Fairs. One of our enterprising farmers John Chambers of Burlington Co., being sensible of the scarcity of pears and the facility with which they can be produced on dwarfs, set out on orchard of one thousand trees about two years since, and at our late Fair at Mount Holly exhibited of his crop thirty-nine varieties of pear, of great beauty, reflecting

much credit on his energy and good treatment, and for which he obtained the highest premiums, and after the show was over to convince the spectators that they possessed real worth, as well as beauty, he offered them at public sale, the finest being Duchess d'Angouleme, went off readily at four dollars per dozen, the next in value St. Michael Archange. Bonne d' Jersey and other choice varieties, descending in price by regular gradations, until those of least value were closed out at fifty cents per dozen.

The inoculation should be near the ground, so that when transplanted, union may be the place below the surface. It may not yet be ascertained how long they will last, but we have records of them over one hundred years old, and still healthy. My own trees that have been standing in the orchard about five years, have borne half a bushel each at a time. In New England it is stated that pear trees on the Quince root, which are twenty-five years old, produce annually a barrel or more of fruit each, and appear destined to survive as long as any on the pear root. As they admit of close planting, mature their fruit within one or two years from the time they are transplanted in the orchard, large profits may be taken from an acre of ground before any return could be obtained them on pear stocks. In planting an orchard for myself, I have set the trees 8 by 12 feet apart, which give plenty of room for driving a wagon between the rows to apply manure, and will require 453 trees per acre.

Since the peach crop has become so uncertain in this vicinity, and the death of choice fruits in our markets I know of no other fruit so easily raised in the open field, giving as fine a prospect of a rich reward to farmers and market men as Dwarf Pears.—*Farm Journal.*

SUNDAY CORN.—The Investigator of last week publishes from a letter, in which the writer says he has raised two acres of Sunday corn, the proceeds of which he proposes to devote to the purchase of infidel books. All the work upon it was done on Sunday, and he thinks it will yield about seventy bushels to the acre. "I don't see," says this pains-taking Sabbath-breaker, "but that Nature or Providence has smiled upon my Sunday work, though the priests tell us that no labor performed on that day ever prospers. My two acres of corn tell another story."

Upon this, the Rural New Yorker comments briefly thus:—"If the author of this shallow nonsense had read the Bible as much as he evidently has the works of its opponents, he would have known that the Ruler of All does not always square up His accounts in the month of October."

The Family Circle.

Conducted by

Mrs. MARY ABBOTT.

Female Lecturers.

Since our last number, our city has been visited by Miss Lucy Stone, a female lecturer. We did not go to hear what the babbler had to say, for many reasons; one of which is that we do not believe it is right for females to speak in public to promiscuous assemblies, and we do not believe they can do it without violating that retiring modesty of her nature which God has implanted in the heart of every female, to guard her against coming in contact with the rude elements and passionate political and sarcastic discord of the rough world without. Woman has higher and holier duties binding upon her, (which man cannot perform,) without stepping aside into the sphere belonging to the sterner sex.

Are there not good men enough in the world to preach all the temperance, religious, or any other lectures that humanity ought to listen to, without woman breaking over the bounds of propriety, decency, and convenience, and leaving her own peculiar duties to become a traveling lecturer? How foolish and absurd the idea of a woman, with her weak and delicate lungs, and small figure, standing on a platform or in a desk, putting on all the airs, and even the costume of athletic manhood to lecture to mixed multitudes of the curious, idlers, and rowdys, drawn there, not to hear what noble man *can* not say, or what they do not hear, or may hear whenever they like; but to see a sight like Tom Thumb or the female giant, or any other of the thousand wonders that are hauled through our land every day, to drain the pockets of the curious. And Miss Stone knows that the bump of curiosity is great on the heads of those who are fond of sight-seeing; and that it is more profitable to make a living by thus showing herself, than it is in staying at home and attending to her own legitimate duties. She throws away her natural re-

tiring modesty as much as any other women have done before her, though in another way. Both have left the sphere God designed them to occupy.

THE MICHIGAN STATE FAIR, for 1854 has been fixed for the 26th to 29th of September next, at Detroit, provided that city raises 1,500 before the 1st of May next.

THANKS.—We must again thank our kind friends for the high terms in which they speak of our department, and for the words of encouragement they so often send to their letters. We hope we shall continue to deserve it while we live.

ISMS.—The new *isms* and notions—Bloomerism. Woman's Rights, Spiritualism and Abolitionism—we class under the same head; and hope we shall never have any thing to do with these new lights.

PREMIUMS.—We intend to give a premium at the next State Fair for darning and patching coats, pants, vests, or any thing that comes under that head; as we have some reason to believe that many good garments are thrown aside in many families, before they are half worn out, because that important branch of needle-work cannot be neatly done. Our premium will be a gift book or annual for the best specimen of darning and patching of woolen cloth, or silk or satin vestings.

For the Mind.

While the farmers are doing so much to improve the condition of their farms and to bring them into a high state of cultivation, we hope they will not neglect to cultivate their own minds, and those of their children. We have just been reading in the *Western Casket* an article which contains so much real good advice to parents, that we take a few extracts from it for the benefit of our readers. We hope every parent will read them:

"But one of the most important, as well as one of the most difficult things that parents

can teach their children, is obedience. If this is not secured, all their efforts to train up their children in the good and the right way, will be in vain. But this object may be accomplished, if parents will begin in time, and persevere in their efforts. All that is wanting, is a firm and determined resolution that you will govern your children—this is your right and privilege, and if you neglect it, you will sin against God, and, in all probability, will be the cause of your child's ruin. Let not the child's crying deter you from doing your duty; let not a false and misplaced affection, prevent you from punishing your child whenever it really deserves it. Remember what the wise man says on this subject. "He that spareth the rod, hateth his child, but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." And again, "The rod and the reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself, bringeth his mother to shame." Your own good sense may dictate the best means to be used in order to secure obedience; but this must be done, or you must run the fearful risk of losing your child for ever. In the general I do not approve of corporal punishment; and think that it should only be resorted to when all other means fail. But I have no doubt that there are cases in which the rod is absolutely necessary. But when punishment of any kind is resorted to, it should be continued until the object is gained, and not as is often the case, give the child just enough to put it in a rage, and then leave it without conquering it. Such chastisement as this, does much more harm than good. But if you begin early, and pursue the proper course, perhaps in ninety-nine cases in a hundred, the use of the rod will not be necessary. But when all other means fail, and you are convinced that it is your duty to use the rod, be firm, and use it until your object is fully accomplished. Never leave the child half subdued; and never fail to ask God's blessing on the means you use. Never chastise in anger; and if possible convince your child that it is for its own good, you correct, and not to gratify any passion of your own. Make it a rule never to scold—this invariably does more harm than good; and a person addicted to this should never have the management of children. Children like to be encouraged; and much more may be accomplished in this way than by scolding. The great art in governing children, is to secure their love and their confidence; and this may easily be done. Always keep in a good humor yourself. Look pleasantly and speak pleasantly to your children, and they will be sure to love you, and if they love you they will fear you; and if they fear you they will certainly obey you. Never trifle with the feelings of your children, or treat them with disrespect. This is always productive of evil. Never re-

quire them to do a thing, and then pay no further attention to them, or seem not to care whether they do it or not. Always be sure that the thing required is right in itself, and see that they do it. If you let them off once, they will expect it again and again, and it will not be long before your authority becomes a nullity. Then perhaps you will begin to scold and lose your temper, and wonder why your children are so disobedient. Here is the whole secret—you let them off once without obeying you. Oh! this first error did all the mischief! Always avoid the first error—it does more harm than all the rest."

"I have known parents, in order to encourage industrious habits in their children, to give them something which they may call their own; such as a house, a cow, or other piece of property; and allow them to increase it, and have all the proceeds. This, in some instances, may answer a good purpose; but in general, I think the practice is of very doubtful tendency—if not positively injurious. If it encourages industry, it also encourages selfishness, and is almost sure to introduce dissatisfaction, and unpleasant feelings in the family. If one child is made the proprietor of a piece of property, another has the same right, and another, and when there is a large family of children, it is easy to see that in a few years they would have a claim on all the property, and the parents could scarcely call anything their own. I think it is most pleasant, and attended with the most happy results for no member of the family to have separate interests; but all, like a swarm of bees, to labor for the common good. This shows that they have confidence in each other, and that they believe that what promotes the interests of the whole, will promote the interest of each individual. Children should be taught to believe, that while they are working for their parents, they are laboring also for themselves. The practice of giving children money, to spend as they please, I think is a bad one.—Children are not always disposed, even if they have the judgment, to make a wise and judicious use of money. It is therefore better that they be entirely under the direction and control of their parents, until they shall have acquired judgment enough to act prudently in such matters.

If we work on marble, it will perish if we work upon brass, time will deface it. If we rear temples they will crumble to the dust. but if we work upon immortal minds—if we imbue them with high principles, with the fear of God and of their fellowmen, we engrave on these tablets something which no time can efface, but which will brighten to eternity.

Each Mother's Love the Best.

A friend has put into our hands the following lines from an unknown source. The intrinsic beauty and merit will commend them to all readers, while the simplicity of the subject and the style will make them specially pleasing to our youthful readers. The moral is told in every stanza.—
[New York Independent.]

As I walked over the hill one day,
I listened, and heard a mother-sheep say:
"In all the green world there is nothing so sweet,
As my little lamble with his nimble feet,
With his eye so bright,
And his wool so light;
Oh, he is my darling, my heart's delight.

The robin, he
That sings on the tree,
Dearl may dote on his darlings four
But I love my little one lamble more."
So the mother sheep and the little one,
Side by side, lay down in the sun.
And they went to sleep on the hill side warm;
While my little lamble lies here on my arm.

I went to the kitchen, and what did I see?
But the old grey cat, with her kittens three;
I heard her whispering soft. Said she;
"My kittens, with tails so cunningly curled,
Are the prettiest thing that can be in the world.
The bird in the tree,
And the old ewe, she,

May love their babies exceedingly;
But I love my kittens from morn till night;
Which is the prettiest I cannot tell,
Which of the three, for the life of me,
I love them all so well.
So I'll take up the kittens, the kittens I love,
And we'll lie down together beneath the warm stove."
So the kittens lie under the stove so warm,
While my little darling lies here on my arm.

I went to the yard and saw the old hen,
Go clucking about with her chickens ten.
And she clucked, and she scratched, and she bristled

away.
And what do you think I heard the hen say?
I heard her say, "the sun never did shine
On anything like to these chickens of mine;
You may hunt the full moon and the stars if you please,
But you never will find ten chickens like these.
The cat loves her kittens, the ewe loves her lamb,
But they do not know what a proud mother I am;
For lambs nor for kittens I wont part with these,
Tho' the sheep and the cat should go down on their knees.
My dear downy darlings, my sweet little things,
Come nestle now cosily under my wings."

So the hen said,
And the chickens sped,
As fast as they could to their warm feather bed;
And there let them lie on their feathers so warm,
While my little chick lies here on my arm.

Miss LUCY STONE.—It is now stated as a fact, which we doubt not, that Miss Lucy Stone received a large sum—the proceeds of her lectures in St. Louis, during her stay there. She cleared over one thousand dollars, every cent of which she carried away with her. She did not give one cent to the cause of down trodden wemans rights in that city, nor to the suffering poor. On her way to Chicago the people of Alton offered her one hundred dollars to stop and lecture there one night, but she could do better and of course refused to stop. Who would not advocate woman's rights for such sums?—*Hannibal Messenger.*

For the Family Circle.

Necessity of Education.

Perhaps there are few subjects of so much importance, so much neglected by many farmers of this western country as the education of their children. With many it is a subject of mere secondary importance. They will toil from morn till night and perseue after wealth with eager avidity, while the important subject of the education of their youth is neglected. How often in the course of business transactions, do we meet with young men, sons of farmers, who have plenty of this worlds goods, and pride themselves on the quality of their clothes; and of their fine blooded horses, fine cattle &c., when called upon to subscribe to an instrument of writing, beg some friend to write their name while they make their mark. Their daughters, too, present scarce a more favorable aspect, many of them not being able to read or write, thus curtailing in a great measure the high and holy influence, which they would otherwise hold over the "lords of creation." The necessity of education will appear more evident, when we consider that all offices, both of Church and State will soon have to be filled by the present youth, and who so well qualified to fill them as a well educated farmer? It is to the farmer that all classes look for support. He it is who is the Alpha and Omega of our national existence, and no man but a farmer should legislate for us. As members of a free and enlightened government, we are placed in circumstances which demand of us a careful improvement of every means of knowledge within our reach. The public mind is excited, and society is fast rising in the scale of improvement. The road to wealth, to honor and usefulness is open to all. Among us are no privileged orders, and according to our talents will we be known and esteemed, and our influence felt in society. The fact that every man is here a freeman and has a voice in the election of rulers who make and execute the laws, is another weighty reason for the mental culture of our youth. Are we not called upon loudly

to cultivate our minds and improve our talents, so that we may act with honor and usefulness the part allotted to us on the stage of life. Science and improvement go together and take with them peace and plenty, wealth and prosperity.

A FARMER OF OSAGE.

CORN MEAL PUDDING.—Pour over a quart of corn meal sufficient boiling water to scald it, stirring to mix. Add half a tea-cup full of sweet cream, (or a cup full of milk,) and the same of dried cherries or any other fruit, with a little salt. When milk warm, stir in a cup full of lively yeast—cover close and set in a warm place to rise. When light, stir in flour to make the batter quite stiff, and let it rise again. Put it into a pudding bag which has been wrung from water and its inside dusted with flour or meal, to keep the pudding from sticking. Boil from one and a half to two hours. Serve with sweetened cream. Four or five hours are necessary to prepare this dish.

STEWED APPLE PUDDING.—Cover with apples pared and cored to the depth of two inches a deep basin or pan; add water sufficient to stew them. Make a crust as for common biscuit, roll to an inch in thickness, cut a hole in the centre and cover it with the apples. Set the dish on the stove or coals to cook, covering closely to prevent the escape of steam.—Twenty or thirty minutes will be sufficient.—Serve with sauce made of water, butter, and sugar, thickened with flour and seasoned with nutmeg.—*Michigan Farmer.*

It is easy to have a supply of horse-radish all winter. Have a quantity grated while the root in perfection, put in bottles, fill it with vinegar, and keep it corked tight.

Willie's father is a clergyman, and "temperate in all things;" so Willie had never seen a man chewing the "vile weed" until he was about three years old, when Mr. —, holding his little son by his dimpled hand, stood in the street for a moment, to speak to an acquaintance. Willie was all eyes, as he could not comprehend the conversation; and, seeing the heavily bearded individual occasionally put a pinch of "fine-cut" into his mouth, was considerably puzzled and astonished. At last he could stand it no longer. "Pa," said he, anxiously, "does that man chew hair so as to make it grow out over his face?"—*Knickerbocker.*

Exercise.

✍ We have often in our former numbers said much to our friends about outdoor exercise, and we here again repeat what we believe to be a fact that if ladies

took more out-door exercise, and attended more to domestic duties that half of the diseases that are so much trouble to females would disappear, and doctor's bills would be exchanged for healthier frames, stronger intellects, and happier and more contented minds, for we believe that the idea of woman's rights originated in the mind of some withered old maid who neglected life's active duties, and had nothing to do but to sit in the corner and brood over imaginary wrongs. We cheerfully copy the following, because it so much agrees with our ideas of exercise.

As to all our sickly friends, all we shall say to them is what was said by an abrupt but benevolent friend of ours to the startled ears of a fine lady,—“Get out.”

“Well I never!” exclaimed the lady.

The reader knows the perfection of meaning implied by that sentence, “Well I never!” However, the lady was not only a fine lady, but a shrewd woman; so she “got out,” and was a goer out afterwards, and lived happily enough to benefit others by her example.

Many people take no exercise at all, because they cannot take, or think they cannot take, a great deal. At least, this is the reason they give their consciences. It is not always a sincere one. They had better say to themselves at once, “I am too idle,” or “I am too accustomed to sit still to make exercise pleasant.” Where the fault is aware of itself, there is better hope of its mending. But the least bit of exercise is better than none. A walk, five minutes before dinner, in a garden, or down a street, is better than no walk at all. It is some break, however small a one, into the mere habit of sitting still, and growing stagnant of blood, or corpulent of body. A little tiny bit of the sense of doing one's duty is kept up by it. A glimpse of a reverence is retained for sprightliness of mind and shapeliness of person; and thus the case is not rendered hopeless, should circumstances arise that tempt the patient into a more active system. A fair kinswoman of ours, once reckoned among the fairest of her native city, a very intelligent woman as far as books went, and latterly a very sharp observer into the faults of others, by dint of a certain exasperation of her own, literally fell a sacrifice to sitting in doors, and never quitting her favorite pastime of reading. The pastime was at once her bane and her antidote. It would have been nothing but a blessing had she varied it. But her misfortune was, that self-will was still greater than her sense, and that being able to fill up her moments as pleasantly as she wished during

health, she had persuaded herself that she could go on filling them up as pleasantly by the same process when she grew older; and this "wouldn't do!" For our bodies are changing, while our minds are thinking nothing of the matter, and in vain attribute the new pains and weakness which come upon them to this and that petty cause—a cold or a heat, or an apple; thinking they shall "be better to-morrow," and as healthy as they were before. Time will not palter with the real state of the case, for all our self-will and our overweening confidence. The person we speak of literally rusted in her chair—lost the use of her limbs, and died paralytic and ghastly to look upon, of premature old age. The physicians said it was a clear case.

On the other hand, we heard some years ago of a gentleman of seventy, a medical man (now most probably alive and merry,—we hope he will read this,) who, meeting a kinsman of ours in the street, and being congratulated on the singular youthfulness of his aspect, said that he was never better or more active in his life; that it was all owing to his having walked sixteen miles a day, on a average, for the greater part of it; and at the age of seventy, he felt all the lightness and cheerfulness of seventeen! This is an extreme case, owing to peculiar circumstances; but it shows of what our nature is capable, when favorable circumstances are not contradicted. This gentleman had cultivated a cheerful benevolence of mind, as well as activity of body, and the two together were irresistible, even to old Time.

The instinct which sets people in exercise is one of the most natural of all instincts, and where it is totally stopped, must have been hurt by some very injudicious circumstances in the bringing up, either of pampered will, or prevented activity. The restlessness felt by nervous people is nature's kindly intimation that they should better themselves. Motion, as far as hitherto has been known, is the first law of the universe. The air, the rivers, the world, move; the very "fixed stars," as we call them, are moving towards some unknown point. As to one's self, one must either move away from death and disease, or they will move us with a vengeance; ay, in the midst of our most sedentary forgetfulness, or while we flatter ourselves we are as still and as sound as marble. Time is all the while drawing lines in our faces, clogging our limbs, putting ditch water into our blood; preparing us to mingle with the grave and the rolling earth, since we will not obey the great law, and move of our own accord.

Now, dear readers, now is the season for such of you as are virtuous in this matter, to pride and rejoice yourselves; and for such of you as have omitted the virtue in your list, to put it there.—*Leigh Hunt.*

From the Student.

The Christmas Present.

BY CATHERINE M. TROWBRIDGE.

George Bliss was a happy little boy. Any one might know this, who looked into his sparkling eyes and smiling face. He is just returning from school with his satchel of books over his shoulder. His playful dog, which ran to meet him, seems as happy as his kind master.

"What made George happy?" you ask. "Had he a rich father, who was able to get for him everything he wanted, and to gratify all his reasonable and some of his unreasonable wishes?"

No, my young friend, he had no father but his Father in heaven. His widowed mother was not rich, and could not afford to procure for her son many things which some boys have, and which they think they could not be happy without. But though his mother was not rich, she was able to provide a pleasant home for her little boy, and send him to a good school in the country village where they lived.

A little boy whose parents were very poor attended the same school. His name was William. George and William were great friends. They were both gentle and pleasant boys, and loved their school and their studies. Though the parents of William were poor, yet, thanks to our system of free schools, he could attend school, if he could get clothes to wear and books to study.

During the fall, William went to school without shoes, but when it began to grow quite cold, he told his friend George that he feared he should have to stay at home during the winter, because he had no shoes to wear.

George felt very sorry for William. When he returned home from school that night, he told his mother the story, and asked her if something could not be done. His mother, too, felt very sorry for William, but she told George that she could not afford to buy him a pair of shoes.

"How I wish I could get him a pair!" said George.

"I wish you could, my son, but I suppose you have not money enough for that, even if you are willing to spend it all in this way."

"No, mother, I have not: I am quite willing to give him all I have, but it is not half enough to buy him a pair of shoes. You remember I gave him all I had in the spring, to buy him an arithmetic."

"I wish," replied his mother, "that I could think of some plan to help you, but I cannot at present."

But George could not let the matter rest here. He had set his heart upon getting a pair of shoes for William, and he was all the while contriving how he should do it. If he could only earn the money! but that he could

not do; for the days were short, and he went to school every day.

Meanwhile the weather grew colder and colder. It was almost Christmas, and yet no way appeared for him to get the shoes for his friend. "Where there is a will, there is a way," he would say to himself. "I am sure my will is good enough, but where I am to find the way I do not know; but I will keep trying, and if there is any truth in the saying, perhaps I may find it by and by."

One night, after George had gone to bed, as he lay awake a long time, thinking about the shoes, a bright thought came into his mind. It seemed to him that he had hit upon a very good plan to get the shoes; still there were some difficulties in the way. He must get his mother to help him out with his plan, and there were some reasons which made him unwilling to mention the subject to her, and tell her what his plan was. He thought he would do so the next day, but the next day, and the next passed, and still he could not get courage.

But at last there came a violent snow storm, which made him fear that poor shoeless William would not find his way to school next day, and this overcame his reluctance to tell his mother of his plan.

"Mother," said he, "I wish to ask you a question. I am afraid you will think it very strange one; but I hope you will not dislike it. I want to know if you intend to buy me any thing for a Christmas present, and if you please, I should be glad to know how much money you intend to spend for it."

"Why, George! I think you have asked a strange question. Don't you know that Santa Claus keeps his secrets very close until Christmas morning?"

"I know it, mother. I have wished to ask you the question for several days, but I could not get courage, until this great snow storm put it into me."

"What can the snow storm have to do with it?"

"I will tell you mother. A few nights ago, after I went to bed, I began to think how soon it would be Christmas. I knew that you had contrived to make me some present every Christmas, and I began to wonder what it would be this year. Then I thought that these things cost money; for I know that you paid at least fifty cents for the present you made me last Christmas. I had just been thinking about poor William's shoes, and the thought came into my mind that I wished I could have the money the present would cost, instead of the present, next Christmas, for then I could get a pair of shoes for William. Now, mother, I have told you all, and I hope you will not be displeased with me for asking about your Christmas secrets."

"Certainly not, my son. But if I give you the money, are you quite sure that you shall feel contented without a Christmas present? for you know that I cannot afford to give you the money, and make you the present besides."

"I know it mother. If you will give me money, that shall be my present, and I am sure it will give me more pleasure than any other would."

"Then my son, you shall have it this very night."

George took the money, and adding it to his own little store, went the next morning to a shoemaker, and engaged a stout pair of shoes for William. They were to be done before Christmas, that William might have them for a Christmas present.

George, quite unexpectedly, received a very handsome Christmas gift from an aunt of his; yet, though he was much gratified with it, it did not affirm him the real pleasure and genuine satisfaction that it did to present to his friend William, on Christmas morning, the shoes he had purchased for him. You must not think strange of this; for the best and truest of all books informs us that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

You have, I think, now found out why George Bliss was a happy boy. It was because he was a benevolent boy, and his heart was full of kind and benevolent feelings. Do you wish to be happy, my young friend? Of course you do. Well, the same thing that made George happy will make you happy too. Try it and see if it is not so.

Advice to Housewives.

Britannia should be first rubbed gently with a woolen cloth and sweet oil; then washed in warm suds, and rubbed with soft leather and whiting. Thus treated it will retain its beauty to the last.

New iron should be very gradually heated at first; after it has become inured to the heat it is not likely to crack.

It is a good plan to put earthen-ware into cold water, and let it heat gradually until it boils—then cool again. Brown earthen-ware particularly may be toughened in this way. A handful of rye or wheat bran thrown in while it is boiling, will preserve the glazing so that it will not be destroyed by acid or salt.

Clean a brass kettle before using it for cooking with salt and vinegar.

The oftener carpets are shaken the longer they will wear; the dirt that collects on them grinds out the threads.

Woolens should be washed in very hot suds, and not rinsed. Luke warm water shrinks them.

Do not wrap knives and forks in woolens. Wrap them in good strong paper. Steel is injured by lying in woolens.

THE MARKETS.

St. Louis Market.

MONDAY, January 30, 1854.

Advices by last steamers show a further advance in breadstuffs. The two last arrivals exhibit an enhancement on Flour of 4s. 6d. The next steamer is due to-day, we believe, and if continued advance mark the quotations; speculative feeling will likely become somewhat excited. Rates are now at a dangerous point, and coolness is requisite to watch the movements of the market at home as well as abroad. Telegraphic dispatches, giving further details of the advices per last steamer, will be found under the proper head. At New York wheat has attained an unprecedented price. Corn is advancing, and Pork and Lard begin to feel the general improvement in our staple products. Groceries are also better.—*Missouri Republican.*

HEMP—per ton, \$118 to \$130 for undressed; dressed \$175. Old crop all sold.

FLOUR—per bbl., good country brands, \$6.75 a \$7 choice brands, \$7.25; superfine city, \$6.75 to \$7; extra do 7.50 to \$8.

WHEAT—per bushel, good to prime, \$1.35 to \$1.50.

CORN—per bushel 50 to 52 cents; sacks included:

OATS—per bushel, 40 to 41 cents, sacks included.

BARLEY—per bushel, 65 cents.

MESS PORK—per bbl., \$12.50.

SUGAR—per lb., common, 4 to 5 cents.

MOLASSES—per gallon, 23 to 25 cents.

COFFEE—per lb., Rio, 12 to 15 cents.

BRAN—70 to 75 cents per 100 lbs.

BUTTER AND CHEESE—Fair country butter, 12 to 15c; good to prime, 16 to 18c; choice Ohio roll, 16 to 20c. W. A. cheese 10c for prime.

From the St. Louis Intelligencer.

Flour and Grain.

Prices are gradually advancing as will be seen from our market report. Superfine flour sold on Saturday at \$7, and prime wheat \$1 45 a \$1 50. Corn at 50 a 52c. These are fine prices for the farmer to keep in his mind's eye during the coming season of plowing and planting, and will no doubt stimulate the whole country to unusual exertion in putting in heavy crops of corn and other grain. Wheat always a favorite, has greatly additional swarms laid, which, with a favorable season must prove a valuable investment; for its present prices are really based upon short crops the commotions of Europe, these things, not likely to subside before next harvest, when. It may be that it will require all of our present surplus and the major part of the forth-coming crop before our hungry, fighting transatlantic brethren will "cry enough."

Saturday 15,000 bushel prime Osage river wheat sold to arrive at \$1 45, purchaser fur-

nish sacks, and from 3,000 to 10,000 bushels St. Charles, (zimmerman chiefly) at a price not made public. Sale of nearly 4,000 sacks, corn in lots from store at 50 a 52c, sacks included. For a sample of 7000 bushels choice white wheat \$1 50 was offered by two or three parties and refused.

The excitement is not confined to this city alone, but from every part of the upper country we hear of a material advance, particularly in wheat. As high as \$1 10 is being paid at different points on the Upper Mississippi, and in other sections the price rules from \$1 to \$1 20 per bushel.

Live Stock Market.

WEDGE HOUSE, Saturday, January 28.

CATTLE.—To-day 82 head, good to fair, all round, at 5c; 21 do. picked from a lot of 60, at 5½. A small lot of picked, during the week, brought 6c. Market dull. Butchers buy sparingly, and shippers obliged to drive to Cairo. During the past two weeks 700 head have been driven to that point for shipment.—On the market, at 2 o'clock, over 300 head. Range of retail prices, 5½ to 6c. On the opening of navigation, which may shortly be expected from the mildness of the weather, a better feeling will doubtless pervade the Market.

HOGS.—A good demand exists. Packers pay from \$4 25 to \$4 40, and butchers as high as \$4 50. Sale of 1000 head, slop fed, to a packer, deliverable on the opening of the river, at \$4.

SHEEP.—Sale of 80 head, medium quality, at \$3. No. 1 would bring an advance—say \$3 25. Market bare, and demand good.

COWS.—We quote the range at \$20 to 30.

Republican.

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